

OUTLOOK for THE AMERICAN LEGION

BY NATIONAL COMMANDER
J. ADDINGTON WAGNER

PAGE 14 **PEACE**
at any **PRICE?**

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1955



ROBERT MOORE



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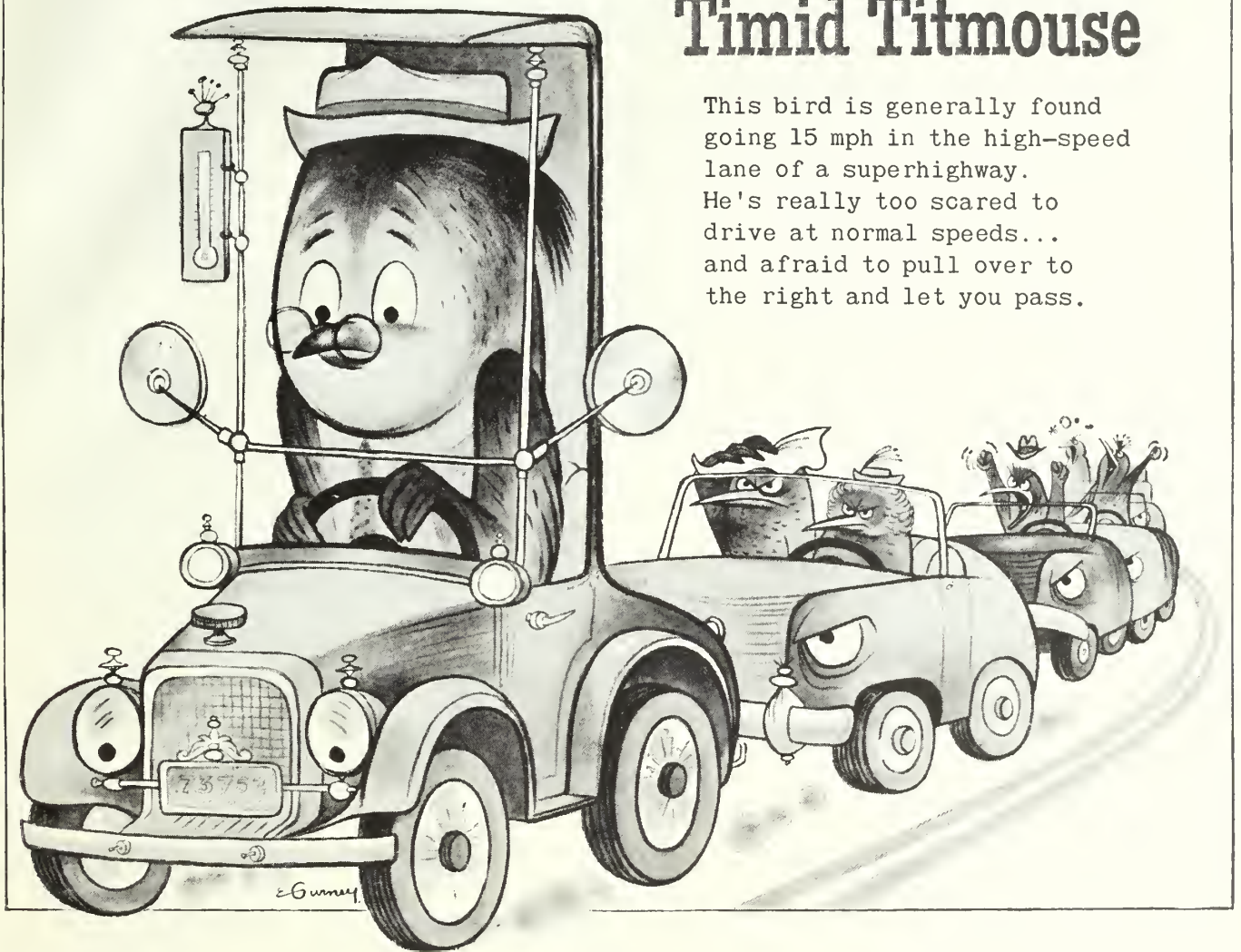


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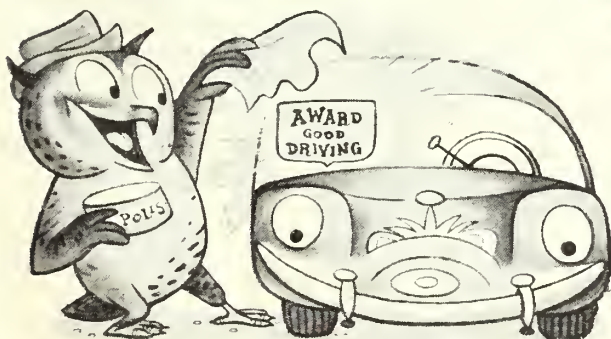


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Vol. 59, No. 6; December 1955

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

MAGAZINE

LEGION



Cover by Robert Moore

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J. Addington Wogner, National Commander, The American Legion, Indianapolis 6, Indiana

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Wake up

to electric
shaving's
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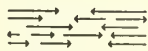
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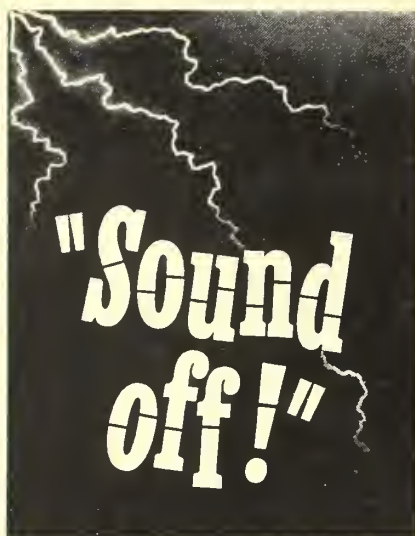
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City.....State.....



TO EVEN THINGS UP

Sir: The GI Bill did a lot of good and gave a tremendous amount of fellows and women an education that they would not have had otherwise. However, there were a lot of us who were forced to go to work immediately and make a living for our families. We were not able to take advantage of any of the provisions. Why not even things up a bit and give those who have had no benefits a cash settlement now? Those who went to work and asked no assistance are certainly more entitled to benefits than some of those who obtained help.

Edgar Wassam
Hudson, Iowa

INVESTIGATIONS

Sir: As a result of long, skillful and specious propaganda by the communists, self-labeled liberals and quite a number of decent Americans, a rather organized opposition was developed against congressional investigations of communists in the theater, schools, military, labor unions, clergy and government. In what groups would this opposition favor the investigations of subversives? The answer is rather obvious.

William Ross
Brooklyn, N. Y.

VOTES FOR BOSTON

Sir: I have just witnessed in Boston a national convention of the VFW. The American Legion held a very wonderful convention there in 1930 and again in 1940 and also had a sort of gentlemen's agreement that we would have a third one in 1950 or one every ten years. I wonder who messed it up? I was given the impression, after speaking with hundreds of members in 1940, that they would be most anxious to have a national convention in Boston at any time. They spoke particularly of the many good eating places, and the wonderful sea food, also of the numerous patriotic shrines they could visit. I am 65 now and

would most certainly enjoy one more national convention in Bean Town before I "go West."

Fred J. Gorman
Boston, Mass.

OBJECTS

Sir: I regret that I must take exception to a statement appearing on Page 55 of your August, 1955 issue, in your article, "Is Dieting Being Overdone?" by Tom Mahoney. Mr. Mahoney writes, "You should beware of diets which call for raw milk. In drinking such milk, you risk tuberculosis, typhoid fever, undulant fever and other maladies." This simply is not so. I am enclosing an article by Jean Bullitt Darlington, "Why Milk Pasteurization?" which proves conclusively that drinking raw milk makes the risk of contracting these diseases no greater than the risk is in drinking pasteurized milk. There has been a great deal of uninformed agitation against raw milk for many years, the source of which, I suspect, being many people in the milk industry.

Andrew Wilson Green
Pennsylvania Raw Milk Producers-Distributors Association
Harrisburg, Pa.

BLIND SPOT

Sir: I would like to see a cover piece depicting the American Negro in any of the typical American scenes such as watching a parade, celebrating the Fourth of July, taking part in a college rally etc. No treatment with condescension.

Sidney Sasson
New York City

▼ Sidney apparently has missed some of our covers. Editors

FARMER VS. CITY FELLER

Sir: I want to congratulate you on Raymond Camp's article, "Hunting At Your Price," in the September issue. I was a farmer before joining the Marine Corps, and can see the farmer's point of view. However, since joining the Corps and always living in town or on a base near a town I can readily understand the point of view of the hunter from the city too. It is my experience that we should go along with the farmer since he is more educated, because of his farm experience, than most people from the city who possess higher education.

S/Sgt. Kenneth A. Dillon, USMC
LaSalle, Ill.

EVERYTHING'S ARRANGED

Sir: When we were on our own we managed our affairs well. We became a great and prosperous nation. However, in the past 20 years something new has come into the picture. We are no longer on our own. Far from it. Everything is now arranged for us—and how! Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister of Great Britain, arranged the

(Continued on page 54)



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So pay this compliment to the good taste of those you admire . . . give them Calvert . . . the most popular whiskey you can buy in a decanter this season. And at no extra cost.



From where I sit by Joe Marsh

Seen Monk's "Better Half"?

Monk McCarthy's latest creation has the town talking again. You can see it parked in front of Monk's auto repair shop on Maple.

Remember last year Monk cut two cars in half, and put their front ends together? You couldn't tell if the thing was coming or going. Sure attracted plenty of attention.

Now Monk's taken Tog Morgan's old sedan and completely restored one half of it. One side is as good as new, the other looks like—well, Tog's old car. "Sort of a before-and-after demonstration," Monk told me, "shows folks the kind of work I do."

From where I sit, some of Monk's ideas may look a little wild sometimes . . . but I wouldn't want to tell him how to run his business any more than I'd like him to tell me what beverage to enjoy. He always keeps a hot pot of tea in his garage—I'd rather have a cold glass of beer—but respect for each other's opinion is "auto"-matic with us both.

Joe Marsh

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SEE PAGE 11

EVERY year it is the hope of every editor to get his hands on a Christmas story that will reach the heart of every reader with the true spirit of this wonderful holiday. In our literature there have been many fine stories of this nature, ranging from Dickens' *Christmas Carol* to the pleasant little pieces that turn up in magazines every December.

This year we are proud to present what we think you will agree is the greatest Christmas story of all. It's a short bit of descriptive writing, but no other Christmas story can compare with it for dramatic impact. It appears on page 11. The author's name is St. Luke.

WHISTLE LIKE A SHRIMP

WE hope that every reader will study carefully the article "Peace at Any Price?" on page 14. It will help you understand the biggest news of the day, dealing with the latest Soviet moves.

Actually, if you will keep a few basic facts in mind, those moves are not so mystifying as some people would have you believe. The reason is, the Soviet leaders are sometimes extremely frank as to their intentions. Weeks after the "summit meetings" Khrushchev, the real boss of international communism, laid it on the line in the following words:

"We wish to live in peace, tranquility. But if anyone believes that our smiles involve abandonment of the teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, he deceives himself poorly. Those who wait for that must wait until a shrimp learns to whistle."

You will have to look mighty hard to find Marx, Engels and Lenin advocating "peaceful coexistence." They firmly believed that the lamb could lie down with the lion, but only if the lamb was stuffed down the lion's gullet.

Even though this is a matter of record, amply proved by experience, there are a lot of "big names," "national leaders" and out-and-out communist frauds and phonies who are trying to convince Americans that they now have nothing to fear from communism. The latest claque to be heard from was made up of 360 clergymen, professors, and other proletarians who signed a petition demanding that the Internal Security Act be declared unconstitutional. It would take a lot of tabulating to count up the number of communist fronts these same worthies

have been tied up with, so maybe their concern is genuine. Unfortunately, many Americans who are not aware of the way so many of the 360 have served as pawns for communistic endeavors are likely to believe they are all honest, sincere citizens.

While these characters were whooping it up for the rosy red world of the commies, a lot of Latins learned the hard way that it doesn't pay to take any stock in Soviet promises and pledges. It seems that since WW2 the Soviet Union made agreements with 19 Latin-American nations calling for an exchange of approximately a half-billion dollars worth of goods. Our Latin neighbors fulfilled their share of the bargain and shipped their goods, but in the good old communist tradition the good humor men of the Kremlin never got around to letting the Latins have the stuff they expected.

LIKE IT?

THIS is the third issue of *The American Legion Magazine* which differs from our old format. We debated whether or not to make a big noise about this new look, and decided against it so as to surprise you. From all indications, the changes have, as the saying goes, been "well received." However, we'd like to hear from more of you.

Do you like your magazine without fiction? Do you like the more extensive use of illustrations and the shorter articles? If so, we'd like to know. And we're just as anxious to know if there's anything you don't like. *The American Legion Magazine*, after all, is your magazine. While we know we can't please everybody, we do try to get out a publication that will make almost everybody happy.

LIFE-LINE

"THE Legion is disgraced," trumpeted *Life* magazine in an editorial in its issue of October 24. Why? Well, it seems that The American Legion refused to conform to the *Life* party line on UNESCO. *Life* is part of the powerful journalistic coalition that hucksters UNESCO, and you conform to the *Life*-line, or else.

The "or else" in this case consisted of two pages of pictures just preceding the editorial mentioned. Featured were Legionnaires at the National Convention in Miami, selected and captioned in typical smart-alecky Time-Life style to give readers the impression that Legionnaires are dimwits incapable of thinking about UNESCO or anything else. Presumably such thoughts should be left to the heavy thinkers on the Time-Life payroll.

Of course we could be wrong. Maybe *Life* used those corny Life-goes-to-a-convention photos because that was the best they could find. Obviously something went wrong in the picture department of the well-known illustrated gazette because *Life* ran up heavy telephone and telegraph tolls trying to coax this magazine to sell them some of our Convention photographs. However, as in the case of UNESCO, we saw no point in dealing with *Life*.



"I HAVE THE NICEST HUSBAND"

Many a man would like to hear his wife say that. So here's a tip.

Get her one of those new kitchen telephones that hang

on the wall. Convenience is just the half of it. She'll be so proud!

It will be a conversation piece in more ways than one.

Especially if it's in color.

Bell Telephone System



THE XMAS GIFT THAT RINGS A BELL. For mother, daughter, dad or son, a telephone in the kitchen, bedroom or hobby room is a swell Christmas gift...one that keeps on giving the whole year through.

Outlook

A NEWSCAST

FOR YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION

AAA advises coast-to-coast AUTO TRAVEL averages one full day less than in 1940. Seven days now as easy as eight days was. Night-day driver teams that once took 5-6 days now cross nation in 3 1/2 to 4 days. Slowpokes who see sights now see more in same time or cross faster without missing anything.

Better roads, cars save the time, while more & more motels add to comfort. Ohio Turnpike just open, Indiana pike due to open next year. Then 60-70 mph tollroads will reach unbroken from NY to Chi - no crossroads, no stops except at tollbooths. 1957 may see another 1/2 day knocked off average Atlantic-Pacific auto trip.

Look for real set-back in progress against POLIO if public backs away from 1956 March of Dimes in belief that Salk vaccine has already licked polio.

Facts: Polio far from licked. Victory in sight is not victory won. 30,000 new cases in 1955. Hundreds of millions of vaccine shots still to be given before big drop in new cases expected. 100,000 old paralyzed cases. 50,000 still needing and getting polio foundation aid. 3,000 need the help to keep breathing. Many foundation chapters broke and in red for aid given in 1955, counting on '56 campaign to bail them out, keep them giving care still needed.

March of Dimes needs for 1956: about \$47 million, only slightly less than raised in most recent years., 70% of it for direct patient care.

XMAS GIFTS firms give employees don't always please, says report of Certif-A-Gift Co., Evanston, Ill. Most of all they'd like to take home something for the wife. A foodmixer was biggest in demand on one list when recipients had chance to choose own present. On a list in a lower price-class, magazine subscriptions topped all others. No single present can please all people on a firm's gift list, says report, so let 'em choose.

Vista looms for even longer LIFE-SPAN for average American. 1955 death rate due to hit another all-time low, chiefly due to fewer accidents & infections. But no change in death rate from big chronic diseases - heart, kidney, cancer, etc. Their control in future offers field for fresh big jump of average life-span into high 70s or even 80s.

If big, real Civil Defense emergency happens, the licensed, amateur HAM RADIO OPERATORS may do best volunteer job. About 7,000 hams now available to man local CD communications under FBI-inspected Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service - RACES. Ham volunteers know their stuff, pursue hobby every day relaying messages all over world. Even when in Armed Forces, GI hams send messages home for other GIs in off-hours (without using military radio) via Pentagon-approved Military Amateur Radio System - MARS.

Few other CD volunteers have chance to handle their specialty daily in peacetime.

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have been sold than
any other make

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SEE "WHAT'S MY LINE" AND "CAESAR'S HOUR" ON TELEVISION—SPONSORED BY REMINGTON RAND

⁷ **A**nd she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.



¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ **G**lory to GOD in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.





NATIONAL COMMANDER J. ADDINGTON WAGNER

OUTLOOK

for The American Legion

This will be a year of decision, calling for positive action by all Legionnaires.

By J. ADDINGTON WAGNER

FROM ALL INDICATIONS the year ahead is going to be an outstanding one.

There is a feeling of good will and well-being. We are enjoying unprecedented prosperity and peace of a sort. Our prosperity is likely to continue, and we fervently pray that armed conflict is not imminent.

Certainly no one would care to have it otherwise, but *because* of these things we are heading into an extremely dangerous period. Indeed, the year 1956 can well be a year of decision for The American Legion and the entire country.

Our great danger at the present time is complacency. This poses an obvious threat to us as a nation, and brings into

greater importance and sharper focus some of the basic programs of The American Legion.

It is hardly necessary to tell Legionnaires of the importance of rehabilitation and what The American Legion has accomplished in that field. Only in recent years has the sick and disabled veteran been given anything like a fair break by the Government, and now there is growing indication that these hard-won benefits will be gradually taken away from him. This will not be done directly, by closing VA hospitals. The operation will be performed deviously, by administrative order, which will so hamper and hamstring hospitals, in the name of economy, that they will

gradually cease to function. As a matter of fact, this move appears to be already on, and the naming of some to the Government's commission is not reassuring in view of their past record of performance in this field. So far President Eisenhower has not committed himself on this issue. His position can be decisive since in the public mind he is looked upon as this country's number one veteran.

As such, and as a Legionnaire, President Eisenhower is certainly aware of the plight of disabled veterans in VA hospitals and of what this country owes those men. However, there is grave danger that others in the administrative family will overlook the debt owed to those men, in their desire to present a

(Continued on page 58)

WE PRESENT THE NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION . . .

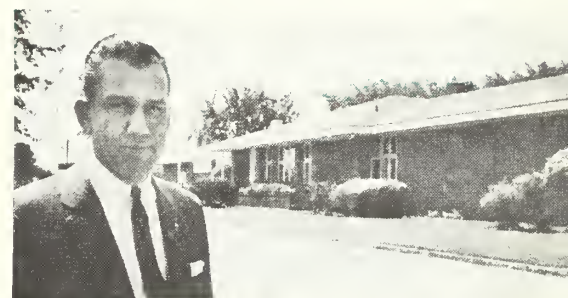
A LITTLE LESS than 11 years ago a Jap *kamikaze* plane streaked out of the skies over Okinawa and headed, with guns blazing, toward an LCI (R) rocket ship offshore. At the helm of the American ship a young lieutenant suddenly grabbed his side and fell bleeding to the deck.

The wounded man was Add Wagner, now at the helm of The American Legion as National Commander.

A native of Battle Creek, Mich., J. Addington Wagner acquired the habit of leadership long before he joined The American Legion or, for that matter, the U. S. Navy. As a boy he wasn't content to be just a Boy Scout—he worked up to Eagle. At Battle Creek High he captained the school swim team which won the State championship in 1932. In 1936 and 1937, while at Washington and Lee University, he again led a swim team, this time to a Southern Conference championship.

Joining the Navy soon after Pearl Harbor, Add was commissioned as an ensign in April 1942, and served until the Jap suicide plane ripped open his

Mrs. Add Wagner and son Johnny at their home in Battle Creek.



In background, General George A. Custer Post 54.

side and shattered his leg three years later. Hospitalized at Guam, he returned to his ship to participate in the initial occupation of Japan at Tokyo Bay, and then was released to inactive duty.

Back home he found himself with two big incentives to further success. One was the girl he met when he was

(Continued on page 60)



Test we forget



"Peace in our time," proclaimed Prime Minister Chamberlain after meeting Hitler in 1938. War erupted in Europe a year later.



The American Legion and the American Federation of Labor were almost alone in opposing the action taken by President Roosevelt when in 1933 he made a deal with Litvinov recognizing Russia.



In 1943, when Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill met at Teheran, there was a general feeling that the reds could be trusted. Subsequently the world was again disillusioned when the entire story was told.



There were smiles at Potsdam when Prime Minister Attlee, President Truman, and Premier Stalin settled world affairs.



No one ever goes hungry or thirsty at high-level talks with the reds. Here is some more of the customary conviviality, at Yalta.

Ten years ago we were treated to more happiness when the UN was born. Next to Molotov is the ubiquitous Alger Hiss.



In a position to win the war in Korea, we held conferences instead. We now know the treaties of Panmunjom were worthless.

PEACE *at any* PRICE?

Once again we are being told that this time we can trust the communists, as once again they change tactics in the cold war.

By J. B. MATTHEWS

THE PRESIDENT himself has pricked the dripping bubbles of optimism which floated over Geneva in July.

Addressing the American Bar Association in Philadelphia in August, Mr. Eisenhower laid down, in terms of the utmost clarity, irreducible conditions for peace between the United States and the U.S.S.R. These conditions, the *sine qua non* of peace, stand less chance of acceptance in the Kremlin than they would if Genghis Khan were top dog in that red citadel.

Touching the question of the captive Soviet satellites, the President told the nation's leading lawyers: "Eagerness to avoid war—if we think no deeper than this single desire—can produce outright or implicit agreement that injustices and wrongs of the present shall be perpetuated into the future."

Thus summarily, the President rejected the twin evils of peace at any price and U. S. acceptance of the *status quo* of communist conquests.

Any agreement on the part of the United States to recognize the *status quo* of red colonialism as legitimate would mean, according to Mr. Eisenhower, that "in the eyes of those who suffer injustice we would become partners with their oppressors," and that "in the judgment of history we would have sold out the freedom of men for the pottage of a false peace." And in addition, by consenting to any peace arrangements having the effect of stabilizing the enslavement of a half-billion human beings, "we would assure future conflict," said the President.

Why all the Rah! Rah! Rah!

Everybody wants peace. If there are degrees of aspiration for peace, surely those who have known war firsthand—

such as Legionnaires—desire it most. Never before in the history of the world have so many prayed so fervently that war will not again stalk across the continents.

But a totalitarian regime dressed in gentlemen's clothing is totalitarian still, and thinks of peace only in terms of death to liberty. Like dice and leopards, the totalitarian regime cannot change its spots.

Why then are there always plenty of columnists and commentators—to say nothing of bleeding hearts—who are ready to believe and proclaim, after every international confab of the big powers, that the Muscovite tyranny has at last had a change of heart? Where is the proof?

The answer to that question would entail a case study in some kind of abnormal psychology. There appears to be a *cult of peace* which bears a strong resemblance to voodooism. Its members believe that by the simple device of talking earnestly to each other they can cast a magic spell over cold facts and cold wars.

Or, maybe the pep-it-up-for-peace boys more closely resemble those who indulge in the ancient game of dice. Have you ever watched a craps shooter in earnest conversation with the dice, imploring the little cubes to think of baby's shoes?

The odds against the craps shooter have been calculated at 251 to 244. These are not bad odds compared to those against the free world in any international smiling contest with the Kremlin.

Peace cannot be achieved by incantation.

There have been many meetings-at-the-summit which have affected the

course of history for good or evil. At this Christmas season the world will be reminded that only one summit meeting was ever completely successful in producing a triumph of Absolute Good over Absolute Evil. The Scriptures say that the devil took Jesus "up into an exceeding high mountain" and offered him all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus was brief and to the point. He broke up that particular summit conference with the terse reply, "Get thee hence, Satan."

With respect to the meetings-at-the-summit in which the modern totalitarians have participated, history has been frightfully repetitious.

Remember Munich?

Once upon a time, there was a nice old man who got off an airplane with an umbrella in his hand and said something about "peace in our time"—a remark which revealed how little he knew about either peace *or* our time.

September 30, 1938, was a fateful day for umbrellas. It is now considered a breach of political etiquette for a statesman to be seen with an umbrella on any state occasion, regardless of the precipitation.

Neville Chamberlain brought the poor umbrella, with its long and honorable history of usefulness, into undeserved disrepute by attending a Big Four summit meeting in lovely Munich, at which Adolf Hitler was the chief summiteer. Affable host that he was, *Der Fuehrer* provided the customary festivities for the assembled summiteers who included, besides himself and Goering, the chiefs of state from Britain, France, and Italy. And, as often happens, a sacrificial lamb was offered up, to cement the newly found peace. On that occasion the lamb was Czechoslovakia.

Munich wrought unmitigated mis-

(Continued on page 47)



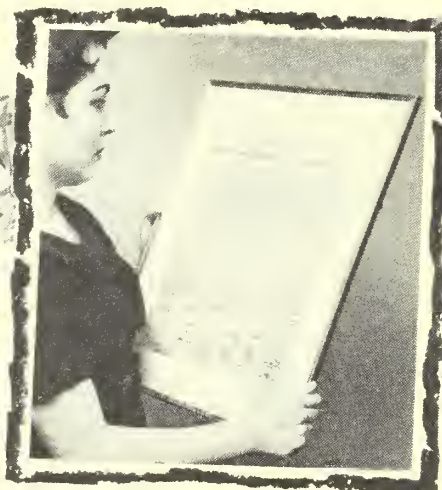
So that the Christmas tree will serve as a reminder of the true meaning of the holiday, the star shown above features a full color transparency of Sallman's famous picture of Christ. This treetop ornament is 7¼ inches in diameter, metalized with silver plate. It is available in stores or from Kriebel & Bates, Indianapolis, Ind., at \$1.89.



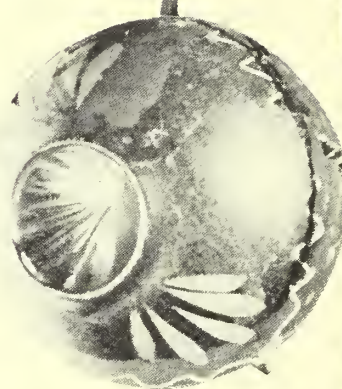
You can fill out a skimpy Christmas tree by adding extra branches where needed with a set of Branch Holders being offered by A. Goetter & Son, 7836 W. Clarke St., Milwaukee, Wis. These sturdy metal gadgets can be driven into the tree trunk and are easily removed to be used year after year. A set of five costs \$1.25 postpaid.



Something new in binoculars is the Dual-Vue glass just announced by United Products Co., 9043 S. Western Ave., Chicago 20. This is a line 7 x 50 marine type binocular which can be converted in seconds to 12-power for extreme long range use. To make the change it is only necessary to unscrew the eyepieces being used and replace them with another set. This all-purpose binocular, with leather carrying case, is \$49.95 plus the usual 10 per cent federal tax, complete.



Antique reproductions of four great American documents, suitable for framing, can be obtained for only a dollar from Government Services, Inc., 1135 Twenty-first St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C. The documents are the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.



A completely new kind of portable electric tool for the home craftsman is this Model 140 Ronto-Jig which combines the function of a jigsaw, router, jointer and shaper table. Porter Cable Machine Co., Syracuse, N. Y., lists it at \$49.95.



◀ If you know any small fry with ambitions to become a nuclear physicist, there's a chemical lab set available which should get him started. Made by A. C. Gilbert, the No. 25 Chemistry Nuclear Physics Set has enough material and equipment to let a boy play atomic expert, but not enough for atomic bomb construction. Price is \$22.50.

Parade for Christmas

WITH THE holiday season close at hand, here are a few items, culled from the many we hear about, which may warrant a special place on your shopping list. Some of them are brandnew, but we have purposely included one thing that is as old as our country. It rates a place in every home, Legion Post, and public building. We refer to the reproductions of historic documents, mentioned on the opposite page.

Legionnaires will be interested in another excellent source of Christmas ideas—the catalog of The American Legion Emblem Division. If your Post doesn't have a copy, you can get one from National Headquarters, Indianapolis.



You can make your own fancy Christmas candles with a do-it-yourself kit which can be had for a dollar postpaid from B. C. Moses, 3019 Prospect Ave., Houston 4, Tex. The kit contains wicks, coloring, silver tinsel dust and sequins, plus a booklet which tells how to be your own candlestick maker. Wax is not included but it can be purchased at any food store.



Just as no automobile is complete these days without a radio, so the modern bicycle should be equipped to give Junior music wherever he goes. First to make such a vehicle available is the Huffman Mfg. Co., Dayton, Ohio, whose Huffly Radio-Bike has a radio built into the bike body. To prevent tampering, a special key is provided, and the batteries will last a hundred hours. The price is \$87.50, or \$97.50 with two-speed gears.



An interesting electro-mechanical toy called Flyboy makes it possible to simulate real flight. The plane, a model F-84, runs from a ground "crab" and is operated by a hand control which contains two flashlight batteries. It takes off, banks, turns, and lands. With batteries, it costs \$7.95 from Airtoys, Inc., Box 5904, Bethesda, Md.



Precut, sanded and ready to stain, this gunrack comes in kit form for \$11.95 postpaid from Yield House, North Conway, N. H. This concern, well known for its assembled furniture, is now offering numerous items in knock down form, including bookcases, bar stools, shelves and racks of various kinds. A free catalog is available.



One of the most startling developments in recent years, the transistor, which takes the place of the conventional radio tube, operates this new Raytheon portable radio set. The transistors, which never wear out, operate for 500 hours on the current from four standard flashlight batteries. Made by Raytheon Mfg. Co., Chicago, they are priced at \$79.95.



Henry Disston & Sons, Inc., of Philadelphia, have dressed up their famous saws this year in plastic Christmas stockings, all ready to hang up over the mantle. This provides a practical gift for the man of the house, at prices from \$2.95 to \$8.95.



◀ A familiar frontline sight was Ernie, preceded here by two GI's.

THE END OF ERNIE PYLE



If the Jap sniper had missed Ernie Pyle, this is what the famed correspondent would have reported from Ie Shima.



By **EDWIN H. RANDLE**
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USA, RETIRED

IT WAS A sunny April afternoon. The 305th Infantry was attacking east on Ie Shima. Its two assault battalions had passed beyond a fringe of trees. From Colonel Coolidge's OP on a low hill we could no longer see them.

Looking back, I saw a man plodding up the narrow, rocky road. He was a small man, obviously not a soldier, for he carried no arms or equipment. Some Navy sightseer, I guessed.

The man reached the base of the low hill, then slowly began to climb, each step seeming a punishing effort. Now I could read the letters USMC on the breast pocket of his fatigue jacket. He wore a steel helmet, painted Navy gray, and much too large. It covered most of his face. The chinstrap was unfastened, the ends dangling as he leaned into the hill.

When he reached the top, I took a few steps toward him.

"I'm Pyle," he said with a shy smile, pushing the too-big helmet back a little. "Ernie Pyle."

We shook hands. "I'm Randle," I said, "Assistant Division Commander of the 77th."

Some staff officers of the 305th and a

few communications men were on the hill. We had already captured the Japanese airfield. Ie Shima is a low, rectangular plateau, but near the eastern end of the island an amazing rocky cone spikes up 150 feet or more to a sharp peak. Everyone called it the "Pinnacle," though on the maps it had a long, difficult-to-pronounce, Japanese name.

"Where is your Division CP?" Ernie asked. He resembled the picture appearing with his column, but he seemed older, his face more creased.

I grinned. "I'm it, I guess, Lieutenant Fowler and I. I'm running this show—off the cuff, you might say. The entire division is ashore, except the headquarters. General Bruce, on the command ship, is busy sending attached units and stuff I don't need over to Okinawa. We go there next, after we've cleaned up here."

The author lays a wreath on Ernie Pyle's grave two months after his death.



Ernie looked around, selected a large flat rock and sat down. "I'm sorry, General, but my legs aren't what they used to be."

I sat on the ground beside him. He removed the heavy helmet. His hair was thin and very gray. It wasn't his legs only, I thought. He had the pinched, drawn look of one tired in mind and spirit. The African Campaign, the Normandy Landings, and the continuous European grind, always on the move, never sparing himself, sleeping in foxholes or trucks or not sleeping at all, all these had left their marks. There were other things, too, though I did not know of them at the time.

"Hear you're with the Navy, now," I said. "It doesn't seem quite right, somehow."

"It's strange to me, too. I don't feel at home yet."

He stared out across the tall brown grass, past the clumps of scrub pine to the smooth blue sea sparkling in the afternoon sun. The sea was like a chess board before the pieces are arranged—warships, LST's, LCM's, all kinds of landing craft moving about, LVT's clanking and crawling across the fringing reefs.



Wherever he went, GI's went for Ernie. Here, aboard ship, he obligingly autographs a cap for a Marine.

At firsthand, he learned about the things that make war less than glamorous. From him the folks back home learned what war was really like.

Without turning he said, "I just had to come ashore and see the doughboys." The familiar shy smile crept over his face, deepening the heavy lines about his mouth.

A three-quarter-ton truck passed, going toward the front. It belonged to the ordnance bomb disposal squad, attached to the division. The truck stopped 300 yards beyond the OP. The men started loading 100-pound Japanese bombs they had earlier dug from the road. The Japs had buried them as mines, leaving the ends sticking up.

"I was in Africa," I said. "Commanded the 47th Infantry in the 9th Division, but you never came around."

"No, I'm sorry I didn't. I saw a lot of the 9th in England, and later in Europe. It's a grand division."

Colonel Coolidge joined us. We stood up, and I made the introductions. Coolidge, in his thirties, was tall, slim,



Familiar to many GI's was this scene as Pyle pounded out his fine stories.

soldierly. Like everyone, he was pleased to meet the famous correspondent, not because he was famous, but because he was the friend and spokesman for the fighting soldier. Strategy and tactics were of little concern to Ernie. And not for him a hasty visit to the front and quick return to a safe, comfortable billet. He lived the life. His columns were about men, men he had talked to, slept with in the same foxhole, and followed around. To say he had the common touch is trite, I know. But that best describes his daily column. Combat soldiers loved him. They eagerly read his stuff, and welcomed him when they could.

"Tell him your situation," I said to Coolidge, after they had chatted a few minutes.

"The 305th," Coolidge began, "is attacking with two battalions astride this road. They are up beyond those trees. Our objective is the Pinnacle and the village at its base. The Japs are dug in three tiers deep under the houses and all through the Pinnacle."

I broke in, "The 306th is on Coolidge's left, but farther forward. They've had easier going, and I've pushed them on. They are to swing around the north and northeast side of the Pinnacle. The 307th, less one battalion, landed on the beaches over there [I pointed to the Red Beaches]. Their front is perpendicular to Coolidge's right flank, and a little farther east. They will attack north. You see, I am working to completely surround the village and the Pinnacle—then we'll clean up. The artillery is all here—all, except the 155-mm. battalion. It is on Mina Shima, but can register anywhere we want."

(Continued on page 43)



LEAD-SLINGERS OF THE OLD WEST,
AS THEY WERE, AND AS THEY HAVE
BEEN PORTRAYED IN FICTION.

Oldtime Gunmen

vs.

MODERN MARKSMEN

You needn't believe all you see
on TV about famous gunmen. Today's
shooters could mow 'em down.



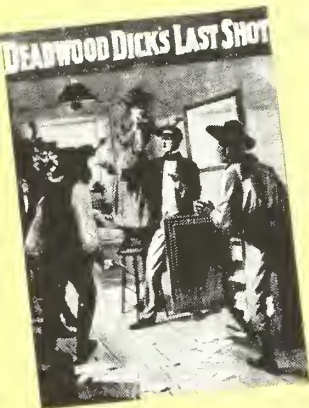
By JACK DENTON SCOTT



Jesse James



Buffalo Bill Cody

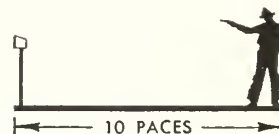
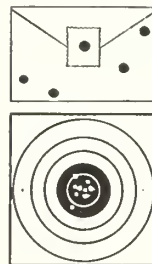


Bat Masterson

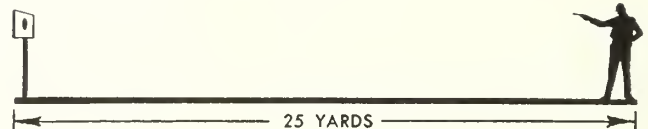


Billy the Kid, ►
movie version.

Bob Dalton and girl. ▼



► An oldtimer was good
if he could hit an en-
velope at ten yards.
Today at 25 yards a
good shooter does this.



JAMES BUTLER 'Wild Bill' Hickok could hit a running chicken at 30 paces, and cut its throat without breaking the hen's neck . . . could bend a dime at 50 paces, nine out of ten shots . . . kill with pistol at 600 yards. . . . Bat Masterson notched his gun with 22 kills, outdrew with snake-speed and outshot the best gunmen of the West. . . . Hickok, firing new pistols with both hands placed ten shots in the bullseye of a small letter O in a storefront sign at 100 yards. . . . John Wesley Hardin, drawing twin .41s, fanning both simultaneously, could ignite a dozen matches with as many bullets . . . Billy the Kid shooting from the saddle, at a gallop, with two guns, hit an endless line of fence posts on both sides of the road. . . .



"Fanning" the famed
Colt "Peacemaker."

Shooting feats like those described above have been ricocheting about in song, movie, book, poem, play, radio, and by lip ever since the winning of the West. Out of the drifting smoke of gun battle and the early struggles of the settling of our frontiers has emerged this persistent legend of the west-erner's prowess with the pistol—magnified and embellished through the years by retelling. Now the legendary gunslingers and the fabu-



Harry Reeves of Detroit made 296 of a possible 300 points with a .22, 295 out of 300 with a .45.



Davy Crockett did some good shooting, considering that his weapon was relatively crude.



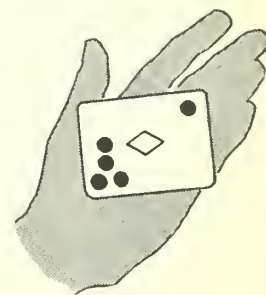
On his way to Venezuela from Sweden, Torsten Ullman picked up a stock K-38 Smith & Wesson with which he set a fantastic record. At left is a composite of three of his slow-fire targets with a well-punctured ten-ring.



Bill Johnson, Remington's exhibition shooter, heaves 'em and hits 'em Ken Beegle, right, draws rapid-fire pictures with a .22 rifle.



Ed McGivern "fanned" his single-action Colt in these pictures to put five consecutive .38 bullet holes in the playing card at right.



lous scouts such as Davy Crockett have been discovered anew by television and movie scriptwriters whose imaginative typewriters are busily filling the public eye with the wonders in marksmanship the old gunfighters supposedly performed.

Without wishing to discredit any of the really great shots such as Wyatt Earp, who died as recently as 1929 and who clearly and frankly gave his views on the skill of comrades-in-arms, we're going to turn the bright light of fact on the statements just made regarding the gun gymnastics of the great men of the West.

A few years ago Charles Roth, a man interested in the mysteries of marksmanship, went West and discovered that the best shot of that sector during the old days was a mild little soldier

no one had ever heard about—Major Frank North. He was the commanding officer of the Pawnee Scouts, a body of Indian soldiers that served during the Indian campaigns. His then surviving brother, Luther North, had been associated with him, and Roth spent weeks with the brother discussing marksmanship.

"Did you ever see Wild Bill Hickok shoot?" Roth asked Luther North.

"Many times," he said.

"Was he pretty good?"

"Yes. But Frank was better. Even Bill said so."

"Just how well could they shoot?"

"About as well as anyone, with the guns they had. I suppose they both could live up to the test of good marksmanship. Frank better than Bill. You put up a letter envelope ten paces away,



In one match J. E. Clark scored 1,745 points of a possible 1,800 with a .45.

and if you could get all six pistol shots in the envelope you were counted good. One of the shots had to be in the stamp which was pasted on the back
(Continued on page 50)

By **DICK REDDY**

I RECENTLY DROVE into a large garage in New York to have a dead headlight repaired. The mechanic pulled out the light and threw it in the trash basket. He installed a new lamp and reached in and flipped the switch. No light. Unabashed, he looked again and found that the trouble was a loose wire. He hooked it up and asked for \$2.20, the price of the new lamp plus labor.

Most of us have had encounters with this kind of incompetence and/or dishonesty in having our cars serviced. We've met dealers we've had to hound before they'd put our new car in first-class shape. Later, we go from shop to shop in search of the perfect mechanic, like a wealthy dowager looking for a doctor who'll take her symptoms seriously. Some of us even prop the old bus

ANGELA CALOMIRIS



Good lubrication means you'll get many extra miles out of your car.

up on a couple of milk boxes and have a whack at it ourselves.

Now it's nonsense to say that there is something peculiarly larcenous about the automotive industry. It has no more crooks and morons than any other field has. However, since we Americans spend more on our cars than on any other single item with the exception of food, we've reached the point where we scream far louder at spending \$6 to put a \$3,500 car back on the road than we do at spending \$9 to overhaul a \$35 watch. Add to this the fact that, despite our tremendous investment in cars, most of us know little or nothing about their insides, and you have the basis of what almost amounts to a national conviction that we are being gypped every time we buy a car or have a mechanic raise the hood. Well aware of this feeling, magazines and newspapers regularly run "exposés" which reveal how writer Ed Blotz was taken for \$900 hav-



How to get **BETTER SERVICE** FOR YOUR CAR

If you think you are being victimized,
you may be at least partially to blame.

ing a wooden spark plug changed in 27 typical garages. Such articles make exciting reading, but they only tell a small portion of the truth. And they are no help at all to the car owner who wants to know how to safeguard his pocketbook and blood pressure from the incompetents and sharp operators who inevitably make up a proportion of the car business.

Much of the blame for poor service

When you get your bill, keep in mind that a mechanic's job is not always a snap.





If you buy your car at a giveaway price, you make it tough for the dealer to give good service. Be reasonable. Also, get all agreements in writing.

can be placed on the car buyer himself. The bargain hunter will go anywhere and sign anything to save a few bucks on a new car. He's a natural patsy for the dealer who sets up on the fringe of a thickly populated area and floods neighboring communities with newspaper and radio ads that offer something for nothing. "Gorgeous 1955 Floogles! \$500 off! No money down, years and years to pay!" This kind of dealer makes a living out of the gullible and greedy. He sells cars as he might sell cut-rate shoes or pickles, and his motto is, "Get their money and get them out!"

If you ask him about service he'll probably register shock at the thought of your asking for anything "extra" after getting such a bargain. He will

vide free warranty service on any car bought from another dealer, although he may do so in order to get your service business and future new car sales.)

Before you buy from this kind of a dealer, read the fine type, all of it. Watch for an almost invisible line that



Getting the right parts is easy when your car is serviced by the dealer.

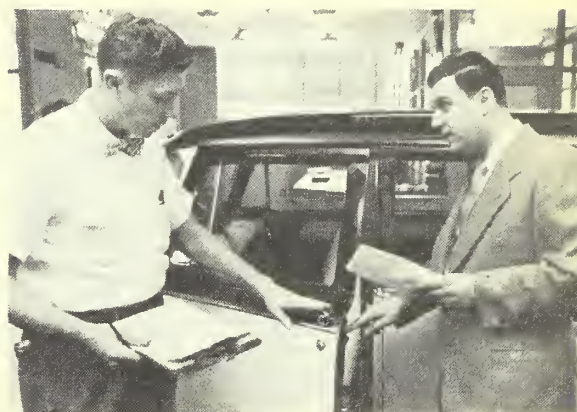
says "Almost new" or "Very low mileage." Even if the cars are really new cars, beware of high discounts; they almost always mean little or no follow-up service.

Buying from shyster dealers means poor service from legitimate dealers too. To compete with the discount dealer the honest merchant must cut his service if he is to retain any profit at all, because a heavy investment in equipment and manpower makes his overhead bigger than the discount dealer's who usually has little more than an office and a store or just a lot. Inevitably the reputable dealer must cut down on the extra service and special attention that make for a satisfied new car buyer. He is caught between bargain-hunting buyers and a factory that must sell a tremendously high volume of cars if it is to survive in the country's most sharply competitive industry.

PHOTOS BY DONATO LEO

Your best guarantee of good service when you buy a car is to stick to local dealers who are susceptible to community opinion. Stay away from distant dealers with sensational offers. Chances are they wouldn't have to advertise in your community if they had any local prestige in their own. This doesn't mean that any of us should pay more for a car than we have to; it does mean that what we save on initial cost may be more than offset by lack of service later.

In theory we buy our service where



When you bring your car in for service, have a written list of what is wrong.

we buy our cars. Actually, we would do better to buy our cars where we buy our service. Before you buy a new car, bring your present car into the service department of the dealer who handles the make you are considering. It needn't be for a big job, having the spark plugs cleaned is enough.

Observe how you are treated: Are the employees courteous? Did they do the work? Is the car ready when they said it would be? Are the prices in line with other shops? You are safe to assume that if they treat you well as a chance customer, they will treat you well as an owner of their product. Conversely, if they treat you indifferently or dishonestly as a stranger, they'll do the same thing after you've bought a car and have far more at stake.

Both the factories and dealers admit that many owners drift away to independent repair shops when their cars are a year or more old. There are several reasons for this. One is that the independent's rates are often lower than the dealer's. Another reason is that if the owner becomes dissatisfied with the dealer's service, he doesn't usually think of switching to another dealer, but goes to the small shop in hopes that he'll get more individual attention. Also, some owners feel, not without justification, that as their cars get a bit older, the dealer's service department becomes less interested in service and more inter-

(Continued on page 62)



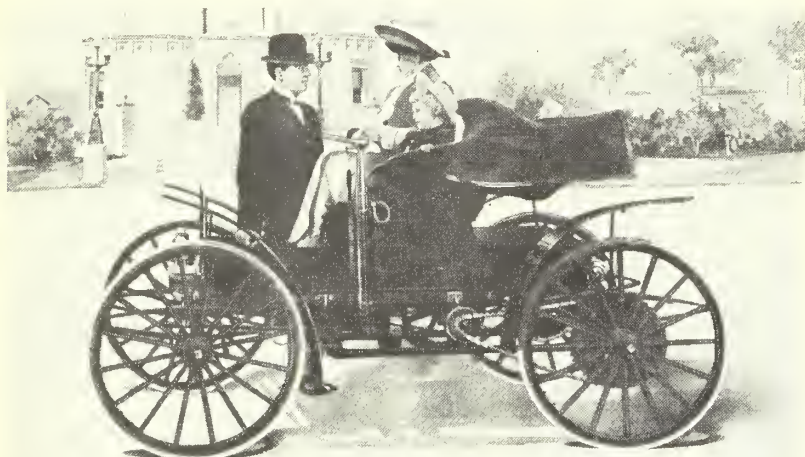
The modern car calls for a great deal of specialized and costly equipment.

probably suggest that you take the car to your own local dealer handling that make, implying that all dealers are obliged to provide free service under a new car warranty. (Actually, there's nothing in any dealer's contract with the factory which obligates him to pro-



Richard W. Sears, who started it all with a shipment of watches a local jeweler refused.

MR. SEARS' AMAZING BOOK



SEARS 1910 - MODEL H.

Mail-order motor buggies were offered for four years. Top price was \$475.

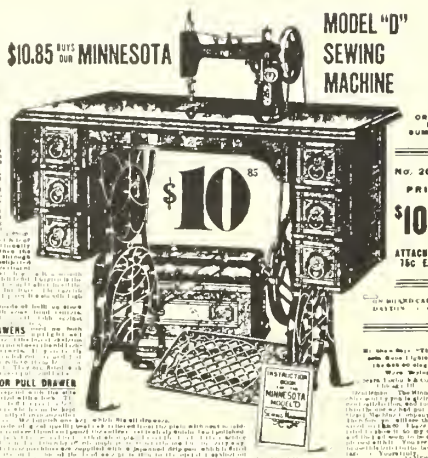


OUR \$6.10 STRADIVARIUS MODEL VIOLIN

THE PRICE "value" we put for this instrument is \$6.10. It is a genuine Stradivarius, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

OUR PACANI A Violin in which is the best of our best. Complete with bow. Price \$10.00. Order and we will send you the best of our best.

▲ This Strad didn't come from Cremona, nor did it cost \$50,000.



\$10.85 THE MINNESOTA

MODEL "D" SEWING MACHINE

THE PRICE "value" we put for this instrument is \$10.85. It is a genuine Minnesota, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

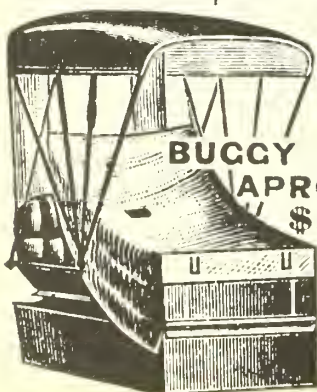
LAWERS. The price of this instrument is \$10.85. It is a genuine Minnesota, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

OR PULL DRAWER. The price of this instrument is \$10.85. It is a genuine Minnesota, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

▲ The lady of the house could run up a seam with this — and exercise too.

A fringed survey cost \$48.50. Such accessories as this apron were extra.

They didn't wear mink then, but this was dashing and not costly.



BUGGY APRON \$1.10

CANES. New Specialties in Walking Sticks.

Per doz. \$1.00 Each... 10¢



\$13.75

Ladies' Fur Jackets.

STRICTLY HIGH GRADE FURS. Each jacket made with the best of furs. The price of this instrument is \$13.75. It is a genuine Minnesota, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.



Alvah L. Roebuck



Julius Rosenwald

One repaired watches, the other supplied units.

By LAWRENCE M. HUGHES

RICHARD WARREN SEARS liked to call his catalog "The Farmers' Friend." The catalogs of Sears, Roebuck and Co. are still that, but somewhat more. Despite our gasoline-engined, urbanized, and suburbanized life, Americans today spend four times as many dollars to buy through Sears' catalogs as they did three decades ago. Two-thirds of today's buyers live in cities and towns.

For 69 years the "catalog" has carried a lot of us from cradle to grave. Among 107,000 items in today's spring and fall "general" catalog, the biggest seller is still diapers. The catalogs do not offer food, nor whole homes, nor automobiles. (For the last two, however, Sears will mail you most of the parts.) The big book's pages do not promote the latest thing in coffins.

But when (under Sears' cheerful refund policy) a woman returned four bottles of medicine with a note saying her husband had died after taking the first two, Sears wrote to express sympathy,



As American as apple pie is the well-thumbed mail-order catalog.



The orders go 'round and 'round and they come out here in Chicago.

and sent a copy of the *Special Tombstone Catalog*.

Today fewer folks ask Sears' help in finding a mate. Although some of these requests obviously are gags, you may hardly blame the guy who specifies "the gal in the pink dress on Page 237." (Among Sears' models who have won fame are Susan Hayward, Lauren Bacall, Ginger Rogers, Norma Shearer, Gloria Swanson, Mona Freeman, Anita

Colby.) But a Montana rancher would settle for "a clean woman who can cook good." And a lonely farm woman asked simply for "a man—*any* man."

An irate father once asked Sears' help in locating "a low-down, no-account loafer" who had eloped with his daughter. By chance the same clerk who read this letter heard a couple of months later from the son-in-law. Without revealing the couple's address,

Sears could reassure the father. The order from the "loafer" read: "2 pr. silk stockings for wife, one machinist's kit for self."

But even Sears can't sell 600 million items yearly without getting complaints. The company's favorite example of these concerns a Southwestern farm wife who returned a pair of decoy ducks with the note: "I've cooked them and cooked them, but they're still tough."

Some wits still ask for that truss they saw in a 1908 catalog, and Sears must explain patiently that they're out of luck. While the company tries to have replacement parts in stock for a reasonable time, an executive says, "We aren't keen about keeping kerosene lamps burning."

Another name for the general catalog is "The Wishbook." Children seem to do more than their share of wishing. They write not only for catalogs but sometimes, without parents' knowledge, for things promoted in them. Because the general catalogs cost \$1.40 each to produce, Sears tries to keep the kids' requests for them within reasonable bounds. But the company listens carefully to these customers of tomorrow.

Thousands of catalogs go abroad annually to individuals and to our Armed Forces exchanges. Orders from them are filled by Sears seaboard mail-order plants. Such organizations as the United States Information Service find the catalog a strong promoter of the American way.

Eddy Gilmore, former Moscow bureau chief of the Associated Press, says that "the Sears, Roebuck catalog and the phonograph record are the most powerful pieces of foreign propaganda in Russia. The catalog comes first." And the late President Roosevelt once suggested that Russian anti-American propaganda could be curbed by dropping several million Sears' catalogs from planes flying over the Soviet Union.

In the last three decades Sears, Roebuck and Co. has grown to be a \$3 billion-a-year business primarily through retail stores. But the catalog part of it still represents a \$900-million volume. This latter figure contrasts with a *total* volume of about \$200 million in 1924, before the first store was built.

These decades have been dominated by an Army man—Brigadier General Robert E. Wood, who retired as chairman of Sears' board in 1954.

A West Point graduate, Wood served as a cavalry lieutenant in the Philippines before working under General George Goethals on the construction of the Panama Canal. He was in charge of building barracks for 10,000 laborers, and then of requisition and purchase of

(Continued on page 55)

By JUNE L. AULICK

WHAT DO YOU WANT to know? Have you any questions you'd like to have answered concerning your family affairs, your business, or your health? Do you need any advice as to how you can best spend your leisure time?

No, this is not a buildup for a fortuneteller who knows all and can tell everything. It concerns one of the fastest growing businesses in the country today—the supplying of information. We are not referring to the people who dispense information in schools and



Your librarian can get you started on the right trail.

colleges at so much a point per semester, nor are we talking about such freelancers as the fellow who tells you what nag will come in first in the fourth at Hialeah. This deals with the army of information specialists who work like beavers storing up wisdom and are not only willing to share it with you but are usually eager to have you come and get it. Or, if you prefer, they will deliver it.

American industrial, civic, welfare, governmental and educational organizations spend millions of dollars each year collecting information which they hand out freely or in some cases for a small fee. The service comes under the head of good will or public relations, and as far as the practitioners of public relations are concerned, the more information wanted by the public the better for them. So all you need do is ask.

Tracking down specialized knowledge can become a fascinating and profitable game that can be played anywhere in the United States. The main requirement is a mailbox to receive the answers. The second most useful tool

is a public library where you can run down leads as to where you should direct your questions.

Here's how the game paid off for Harry Wilcox, a young lawyer in Westerville, R. I. One of the attorney's clients had died and left instructions in his will that his ashes should be scattered from a plane piloted by Clarence Chamberlin. Harry dimly recalled the onetime flying ace, but had no idea where to locate him.

He went to the public library and got a copy of *Who's Who in America*, a basic reference book which contains brief biographical sketches about thousands of well-known living Americans. Unfortunately, Chamberlin's name was not there.



A gold mine of leads can be found in any telephone book.



How to Find Out

Thousands of people are willing and anxious to help you when you are in need of information.

So he asked the librarian where to look next for a clue. She suggested that he write the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, 2 East 64th Street, New York City. While the Institute generally answers technical questions, the librarian figured that maybe somebody in the New York headquarters would know of Chamberlin's current whereabouts.

Harry sent a letter of inquiry. In a few days a reply arrived from Miss

Elizabeth B. Brown, librarian of the I.A.S., telling him where to reach Mr. Chamberlin.

For the price of a three-cent



Stop in. Their main job is to serve the public.

stamp, the attorney who wasn't afraid to ask was able to help the heirs to his client's estate carry out their relative's wishes, thereby gaining their respect and admiration and enhancing his reputation in the community.

Then there was Fred Clifford, an executive in Los Angeles, who used another phase of library resources to promote his business. The paint company for which he worked was considering the establishment of a branch office in Dallas. Before taking a personal trip to Texas, Fred wanted to be armed with certain pertinent facts regarding painting habits and sales prospects there. In the library he consulted *N. W. Ayer and Son's Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals* for the names of newspaper editors. He wrote them his questions, and back

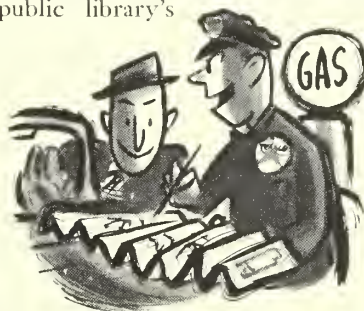
Standard Advertising Register. He sent them letters outlining his experience and background, and also wrote to New York TV stations whose personnel is compiled by *Radio TV Annual*. Bud received five replies to come in for an interview, and ultimately landed a job that suited him fine.

So there you have some examples of one way to get started when you want to know how to find out. Your public library's

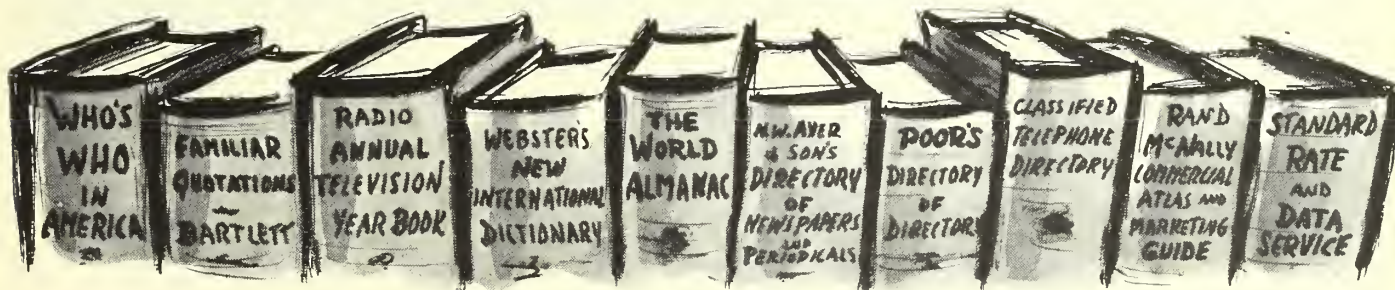


Miles of movie film are available for those who can make use of it.

Your service station ► man can get your tour worked out for you.



ILLUSTRATED BY
WHITNEY DARROW, JR.



These books are key references for those who know how to seek and find.

came a wealth of material which was of great value when he later conducted his own survey.

In the case of Bud Fraser, a Navy veteran, the library reference books were used to help get him a better job. After spending a year in a Pittsburgh TV station, Bud developed an ambition to work in New York, even though he had no contacts in Manhattan. In the library he copied down 100 names of advertising agencies with TV departments from *The Agency List of the*



Bankers can supply a lot of helpful information

ice which costs about \$12,000,000 a year to operate, will help you when you can't find the number in the book. The soft-spoken, never-ruffled young ladies in this department have 4½ million listings literally at their fingertips in the New York metropolitan area alone.

Besides the telephone information service, which is widely known, many large newspapers and magazines also maintain information bureaus. However, it might surprise you to learn that many organizations, such as the National Association of Manufacturers, have free or low-cost services that may be enjoyed by the general public as well as by member companies.

Among the things available from NAM are movies on freedom, vocational guidance, industrial research, and other subjects, as well as booklets and pamphlets for use by schools and colleges. Another little-known NAM service is the free patent advice it offers to help you sell that gadget you may be whipping up in your cellar. Frank Foulke is the person to ask about patents.

(Continued on page 61)



You don't have to be going somewhere to get their help.

shelves are not only stacked with volumes for your entertainment and a variety of educational subjects, but there are all sorts of business directories as well as directories of directories. If these seem rather bewildering to cope with, the librarians will gladly give you a hand. They're trained to flip through the proper pages quickly, and can easily spot the name of the drugstore trade paper you're seeking, or whatever it is.

If there isn't a library nearby, your congressman may be able to help you with information. He is likely to sug-



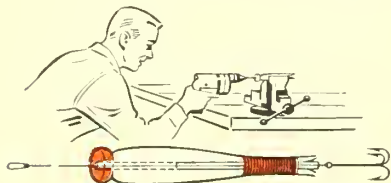
LEGION ROD AND GUN CLUB



By JACK DENTON SCOTT

IN CERTAIN northern States this is the chill month of the ice choppers, when warm-blooded deep freeze fishermen start sliding their shanties to favored spots on frozen ponds and lakes. We've tried it several times and never could work up any enthusiasm, but many States report that devotees are increasing yearly. Could be that the heated-shanty card games, the hot java, the all-male gatherings and the long fish talk are important factors. They tell us ice fishing was dreamed up by the Indians, that the redmen first used twigs as tip-ups on Keweenaw Bay in Michigan more than 100 years ago.

The Indians were careful where they walked on ice. They had many taboos about "the water that sleeps." One is carelessly walking on weakened half-frozen ice and breaking through into deep water. Shun spots where snow covers the ice. The snow builds an unsafe air-ice condition which forms during the alternate thaws and freezes. Avoid ice with dark spots, or places where the snow is discolored. It's possible that underwater springs are at work, weakening the ice and swirling the water so that the ice can't thicken properly.



FOR YOU FORTUNATE characters who live in climes where you can still fish without discomfort, H. M. Gardner, 427 79th Avenue, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., has some help. "Here," he says, "is a killer for salt water casting or trolling. Drill a hole through the head of an old-fashioned wooden clothespin parallel with body of pin, then insert a 3/16" piece of copper tubing (the same length as the clothespin) through the head, making it flush with the head of pin. (The copper tubing is easy to come by. Most gas stations carry it for use in hydraulic brake lines.) Force open ends of pin down on tubing and bind tightly with fish line. Pass wire leader through tubing and attach a treble hook to leader at opposite end of head. Paint it red and white, red and yellow, or any combination that strikes your fancy, and you are in business. Cost: 10 cents."

NOT LONG AGO States that had ini-

tiated hunter safety training were asked how effective the system is. The California Department of Fish and Game essayed an answer. "Recently compiled figures on 1954's hunting casualties show that three youths out of the 17,000 who took California's hunter's safety course are known to have been involved in shooting accidents. This averaged out to one out of every 5,675 who took the course. Of the 12,500 hunters under 16 years of age who had been licensed in a previous year and did not take the course, 43 were involved in accidents—one out of every 290. Our facts prove that young men who take hunter safety training are 19 times safer than those who do not have the training...."

Some of the other States which are operating hunter safety training courses are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Arizona and New Hampshire. All report good results.

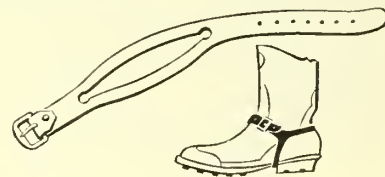
TOM HEFFERNAN, JR., 2801 19th Avenue, Sacramento, Calif., believes in thoughtfulness where your hunting dog is concerned. "A dog covers many more miles per day afield than you do," he says. "When he works hard in rough country, he sometimes wears off the tough covering on his feet. They become tender and sore and hinder his performance. I've found a mixture of one-third pine tar, one-third tannic acid and one-third sand, with the tar heated so the other items can be mixed in is great as a protective covering. Mix well and let it cool before applying. Coat it evenly on the pads and you'll never have a sore-footed animal."

COON HUNTERS and those nimrods after foxes and coyotes take notice! Philip S. Olt Co., of Pekin, Ill., has brought out a coon call that's good. Made of hard rubber and called the Perfect Coon Call, it sells for \$3.00. Philip S. Olt Co., has also brought out a new instruction record on fox-coyote calling. It narrates the living habits of foxes and coyotes and plays the calls. Available in 45 and 78 r.p.m., it sells for \$2.00.

THEY'VE JUST COME up with a tally on the most popular waterfowl hunting States. California took first place with 177,000 hunters; Texas next with 152,000; Minnesota third with 144,000; and Michigan fourth with 130,000. All told, according to the sales of duck stamps last year, 2,182,000 nimrods shivered in blinds, sloshed

the marshes, and patrolled the potholes. That's a lot of crazy people. Count us among 'em.

LOOK AHEAD IN 1956 to continued unique development in the outboard motor field by Johnson and Mercury. Johnson has the handsome Javelin 30, in "holiday bronze," a striking new color. It's a 30-horsepower motor, custom built with heavy accent on power and styling. Mercury has the Mark 30, also 30-horsepower, with the concentration on a range in speeds so the fisherman can troll as slowly as he wishes, or get the high speed that water-skiers demand. Engine speeds up to 10,000 r.p.m. were documented in a dynamometer test.



T. H. RATTRAY, 505 Fifth Street, Hartford, Wis., has devised a little gadget to help duckers. How about this: "I've designed a boot strap for holding the ankle of hipboots or any other kind, tight to your ankle," he writes. "Hunters know that boot slippage, especially in marsh shooting, is aggravating, hard on expensive boot socks and the feet. My strap eliminates most of the foot slippage. It is a slotted leather strap with a steel buckle of the type illustrated, or the adjustable type, and will fit most boots without size adjustment. Affixed to the ankle, one half of the slotted part of the strap is positioned around and slightly above the heel of the boot; the other half goes under the instep, just in front of the boot heel; the end of the strap is then brought over the top of the boot foot, run through the buckle and tightened to individual requirements. Straps are available in almost any hardware store—the slotting is a simple matter requiring only a small leather punch and a sharp knife."

A. O. SMITH, Dunsmuir, Calif., slides in a quick one: "Promote a World War II ammunition belt. Use it to pack your shotgun shells. It will hold five shells to a pocket. Two boxes are always handy. Just twist the belt around when you need shells, and five will be in your hands. Try Army and Navy stores. Some still have the belts."

(Continued on page 54)



VETERANS:

Examine the benefits of the new U. S. Air Force Prior Service Program!

The U. S. Air Force needs trained men with service skills. The Career Incentives Act of 1955, the bigger allowances to service men and their dependents, the extended benefits to service men, all make it worth while for *you* to

investigate the benefits of an Air Force career. Get the facts today, in a booklet the Air Force has specifically prepared for *you*. You owe it to yourself—and your family to investigate the Air Force Prior Service Program.

Talk to your Air Force recruiter
or mail coupon

**TODAY AND TOMORROW, YOU'RE
BETTER OFF IN THE**

U. S. AIR FORCE

AIRMAN INFORMATION BRANCH

V-29-AL

Box 2202, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Please send me more information on the Air Force Prior Service Program

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Years Separated _____



Shirts—Best quality broadcloth.
Neck sizes 14-18. Sleeve lengths
32-35.
White shirt.....\$4.00
Blue shirt.....\$4.25
Ties—100% wool. Blue or
gold.....\$1.00



Juvenile "T" Shirts. Reinforced nylon neck.
Sizes for ages 2-14. Specify "My Dad is a
Legionnaire" (7-813) or "My Granddad is
a Legionnaire" (7-814). Each.....\$1.00



7-796—Combination jacket and sweat shirt.
Heavy fleece lined cotton, half zipper,
ribbed cuffs and bottom. Navy blue or
white. Specify color and size.....\$2.75



Zelan Jacket. Light-weight, water repellent.
Specify oyster (7-0810) or navy (7-B810)
and size.....\$6.30

FREE A Gift to the Giver!



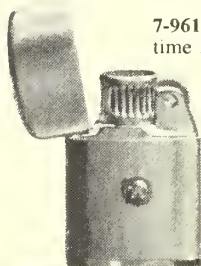
Unusual offer to introduce the
new Parker "51" Pen and Liquid Lead Pencil Set



Buy the new Parker "51" set
with matching Liquid Lead Pencil for only \$17.50

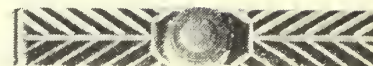
Receive FREE the \$3.95 Deluxe Liquid Lead Pencil
—lifetime sharpness with the point that cannot
break. Set available in black, grey, green, burgundy,
teal blue. (Offer only good until Dec. 31, 1955)

7-958 Parker "51" LL Set.....\$17.50
(with free Deluxe Liquid Lead Pencil)
Parker "51" Pen only.....\$12.50
Parker "51" Liquid Lead Pencil only...\$5.00
Deluxe Liquid Lead Pencil only.....\$3.95



7-961—Ronson Windproof Lighter with life-
time fibreglas wick.....\$4.25

PRICES INCLUDE
FEDERAL EXCISE TAX
WHERE APPLICABLE.



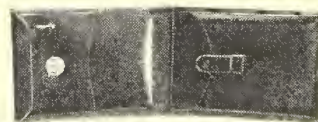
7-3014—Tie Bar & Cuff Link Set by Anson
in yellow gold plated.....\$3.58



7-920—Tie Bar. Yellow gold plated..\$1.10



7-937—Tie Chain. Yellow gold plated \$1.65



7-6371—Album Billfold. Carries up to 30
cards, passes, photos. Double currency
pockets—two key pockets. Finest quality
English Morocco in black, hazel or pine
saddle.....\$6.60

Aid American Legion Programs ★ Buy From National Emblem Sales

National Emblem Sales, Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Indiana

12M-55

☐ Enclosed is check for \$.....

☐ Ship C.O.D. for \$.....

Please rush delivery of the following:

☐ Mail Catalog

Name.....

Street.....

City..... State.....

Current Membership Card Serial Number.....



A DIGEST OF EVENTS WHICH ARE OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU

NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PAY KOREA BONUS:

New Hampshire has joined the ranks of States which have authorized payment of a bonus to persons who served in the Armed Forces during the period of hostilities in Korea. . . . Persons who served 90 days or more between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953, who were not dishonorably discharged, and who were New Hampshire residents when entering service, rate \$10 for each month of such service, with a top payment of \$100.

Bonus is payable, without regard to length of service, in the following cases: (a) Serviceman or woman died in service during eligibility period; (b) Died or dies of service-connected causes after discharge; (c) Is disabled and was medically discharged; (e) Is hospitalized and ultimately medically discharged because of service-connected disability incurred during eligibility period.

Where veteran is dead, or declared incompetent, New Hampshire law provides for priority among various persons who may receive bonus in his stead. For details and application forms write: Adjutant General of New Hampshire, State Military Reservation, Concord, N. H.

New Hampshire Korea bonus brings to eight the number of States that have approved some kind of bonus for Korea-period service. . . . Others are: Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Washington.

* * * *

SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE TO PAY REGULAR DIVIDENDS IN 1956:

The Veterans Administration announced on Nov. 3 that NSLI (WW2) and USGLI (WW1) life insurance policy holders would share a dividend pool of \$219 million in 1956. . . . Five million WW2 policies and 370,000 WW1 policies will share the dividend. . . . Dividend will be a regular, not a special dividend, payable to holders of participating insurance. . . . Dividends will be paid on the anniversary date of each policy as it occurs during 1956. . . . Dividends will be about same as in 1955. . . . Vets will be paid under same option of payment in force in 1955 unless they ask VA to use different option well before anniversary date of their policies.

* * * *

TIME RUNNING OUT ON WEST VIRGINIA WW1 & WW2 BONUSES, AND ON WASHINGTON STATE WW2 BONUS:

Veterans eligible for West Virginia's bonus for WW1 and WW2 service are reminded that the deadline for filing is Dec. 31, 1955. . . . The deadline was twice extended beyond the original deadline of Dec. 31, 1952. . . . No further extension is anticipated, says the West Virginia Dep't of Veterans Affairs. . . . To be eligible, vets must have had 90 days active duty in either WW1 or WW2. . . . They must

have lived in West Virginia for at least six months immediately preceding entry into service. . . . WW1 vets must have served between April 6, 1917 and Nov. 11, 1918. . . . WW2 service giving bonus eligibility must have been between Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 2, 1945. . . . Certain surviving relatives may qualify for the bonus if an eligible veteran is deceased. . . . They include unmarried widows, children under age 16 as of Feb. 5, 1951, and dependent parents. . . . Eligibles who have not yet applied for the bonus should apply to: West Virginia Dep't of Veterans Affairs, State Capitol Bldg., Charleston, W. Va.

The State of Washington cannot pay a WW2 bonus unless application is in hand by 12:00 noon, Dec. 31, 1955. . . . About 20,000 Washington vets who may be eligible have not yet applied. . . . Bonus law requires that recipients must have had at least one full year's residence in the State of Washington prior to entering active service in WW2. . . . Application forms can be had from: Cliff Yelle, State Auditor, Division of Veterans Compensation, Olympia, Wash.

Applications are also available at the same office for the Washington Korea bonus, based on 90 or more days active service between June 27, 1950 and July 26, 1953.

* * * *

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR TANNER CASE; ARMY, AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICERS MAY BE EXEMPT FROM "DUAL PAY" RESTRICTION:

The U. S. Supreme Court refused, on Oct. 10, to hear an appeal by the government of the earlier U. S. Court of Claims decision in the Tanner case. . . . Question was whether Army and Air Force reserve officers, entitled to retirement pay, are subject to a ceiling on what they can draw in terms of combined military retirement pay and pay as civilian employes of the Federal gov't. . . . Court of Claims had ruled earlier that they are not subject to ceiling. . . . With gov't appeal of Court of Claims decision turned down by Supreme Court, it was anticipated that, shortly after presstime for this issue of "Newsletter," pay-officers of Defense Dep't would be instructed to make current payments of full retirement pay to all Army and Air Force retired reserve officers in Federal civil jobs, regardless of their civil job pay.

Possibly some back payments of retirement pay previously withheld may be made. . . . But course gov't will follow as result of Tanner case will depend on decision still to be made by Comptroller General.

* * * *

COMMIES SEE CHANCE TO LURE SUCKERS WITH "GENEVA SPIRIT":

Respectable organizations, leading citizens, civic groups, entertainers and big-name people should be warned that,

after lean years, the thin ranks of American communists once again hope to woo non-communists into bigger and better front groups, civil liberties hocus-pocus and sundry "movements." . . . Commies base plans to wield influence with more and more non-commies on their interpretation of the "spirit of Geneva" as a spirit giving communism respectability. . . . Party line conceives nice twist to grow out of new hoopla for civil liberties, Bill of Rights, etc. . . . Aims at easing non-commies into position where they will be stuck fighting for a brand new spiel — "the rights of communists." . . . Again drums are beating proclaiming that communism is a mere "political belief" guaranteed by U. S. Constitution and "accepted" at Geneva. . . . Some soft-boiled egghead groups have already picked up the cry.

Party recalls great headway it made in WW2, when fact that Russia fought on our side gave it a wedge to suck in innocents by the thousands. . . . Many got so entangled — step by step — in communist web that when the roof fell in they could only recall that "In those days everyone said it was all right." . . . Party hopes to recreate "those days" with "spirit of Geneva." . . . Watch it.

* * * *

COURT FINDS AGAINST VET IN FIRST OF THREE SOLDIERS & SAILORS RELIEF ACT APPEALS:

When last reported in "Newsletter," three U. S. Circuit Courts of Appeal were scheduled to hear cases involving the right of VA to collect from vets for relief extended to them under the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Act of 1940.

10th Circuit Court of Appeals has handed down its opinion, and decided that VA can collect. . . . Two more appeals opinions are due to be handed down on same question in future, by other courts of equal stature. . . . Court of Appeals for 10th Circuit ruled that relief under the act constituted a guaranty, and that it is a principle of law that one who guarantees the debt of another, and pays it under such guarantee, is entitled to reimbursement therefore—unless the pertinent law specifically provides otherwise.

Not in question is relief provided under the same act as amended in 1942. . . . The 1942 amendment specifically provided that VA could hold vets liable for the relief provided.

* * * *

PHYSICAL THERAPY IS A BIG FIELD FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN:

Legionnaires who are able to help high school boys and girls choose careers might well suggest physical therapy and help youngsters decide if this is a field they'd like. . . . Physical therapists are medical associates (not MDs) who give various treatments prescribed by doctors, chiefly in the field of rehabilitation. . . . They administer heat lamp treatments, whirlpool baths, scientific massage, give handicapped people special exercises, teach the disabled how to walk or use their hands again. . . . Typical patients treated are polio, arthritis, cerebral palsy and stroke victims, amputees and persons with serious fractures. . . . Physical therapists work in private, community and government hospitals; clinics, special schools for the disabled, doctors' offices.

Demand for therapists is large and growing. . . . Physical rehabilitation is assuming bigger and bigger role in medicine as average life-span lengthens, while shortage of physical therapists is acute. . . . Beginning salaries today about \$3,600. . . . Supervisors get \$5,000 to \$6,000, adminis-

trators \$8,000 and up. . . . Right now advancement of bright new graduates is rapid due to shortage, which may last long time. . . . Big need also for qualified physical therapists to be teachers, and to do research in this field.

High school grads may qualify for State licenses after taking four-year college course, majoring in physical therapy, at any of 35 approved schools of physical therapy, most of them connected with medical schools. . . . Numerous scholarships are available. . . . For detailed information, interested high school students should write: Physical Therapy Careers, American Physical Therapy Ass'n, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

* * * *

SHOE AND GLOVE EXCHANGE FOR AMPUTEES:

Many amputees, who need only one shoe or one glove of a pair but must buy two of each, have written "Newsletter" seeking an exchange whereby they can swap unwanted new shoes or gloves with other amputees. . . . Such an exchange is operated by George C. Beckmann, Jr., whose address is: The Foundation, Warm Springs, Ga. . . . The exchange is operated by Beckmann personally, is not a function of the Warm Springs Foundation. . . . He invites amputees who wish to exchange shoes or gloves to write him, giving name and address, shoe size and width — or glove size — and whether it is the right or left shoe or glove that is required. . . . Style preference in shoes may be mentioned and, in the case of women, the heel height preferred. . . . Beckmann does not handle the shoes and gloves himself, but puts amputees who can effect an exchange in touch with one another.

* * * *

AUTHORS SEEK VETS WHO KNOW ABOUT (A) TREASURE IN MANILA BAY; (B) 318TH INFANTRY:

Two authors have asked "Newsletter" to help contact vets who can help supply info for books they are writing.

Col. Ralph E. Pearson wants to hear from members of the 318th Infantry Regiment in 1944 and 1945, to help give him details about the personnel of the regiment at that time for a history he is compiling. . . . Vets of the 318th may write him at: FASC Exercise Sagebrush, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Nora Stirling, of New York City, seeks veterans who know anything about \$8½ million of Philippine gov't money that was dumped in Manila Bay under Jap guns 5 days before the surrender of Corregidor in 1942. . . . She would like to hear from any vets who saw the money dumped; any who, as Jap prisoners, were required to dive for it, or any who, in 1945, took part in a U. S. Navy attempt to salvage the fortune. . . . She is writing a book about treasures lost under the waters of the world. . . . Write: Miss Nora Stirling, 865 First Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

* * * *

LEGIONNAIRES DEVISE NEW PAGE-TURNER:

Members of Post 501, Minneapolis, Minn., have devised a new page-turner to help persons without the use of their arms to read books and magazines. . . . First one completed was donated to Minneapolis veterans hospital last August. . . . Post members, employees of Minneapolis-Honeywell Co., believe theirs is the best yet of these difficult-to-design aids. . . . Hospitals, rehab specialists or Legion Posts wishing more info write: C. H. Russell, 3024 Clinton Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

NEWS *of The American Legion*

and Veterans' Affairs

DECEMBER 1955

TWO CONVENTION ECHOES:

Press Garbled UNESCO Story: Legion to Seek Pension Gains

Two things that were done by the 37th National Convention of The American Legion in Miami, Fla., Oct. 10-13, turned out to be of wide interest — and both of them deserve to be told about in more detail here.

The first of these is the policy that The American Legion adopted toward UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations. (UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.) The Convention's UNESCO action must be spelled out because, except for a few, the newspapers and magazines of the United States got the UNESCO story wrong, and gave their wrong story a lot of space.

Wire services at Miami sent the story out wrong.

The second noteworthy action was the refusal of The American Legion to endorse a pension of \$100 a month for each veteran of World War I when he reaches his 60th birthday. The pension situation is not simple, is of interest to many, and should be made clear.

That UNESCO Thing

The Convention's action on UNESCO was told so poorly in the papers that few Legionnaires who weren't there are apt to know what really happened, and as a result many questions still remain as to the facts.

1. On October 12 and 13, nearly all major newspapers and news broadcasts in the country featured a story that the Legion had "demanded that the United States withdraw from UNESCO." Later, many unfriendly editorials appeared, based chiefly on that story, and comments were published of people who relied on the news coverage for their information. Sample: Ex-President Harry Truman told reporters in New York that the Legion had "gone haywire."

Did the American Legion Convention urge that the U.S. withdraw from UNESCO?

It did not.

Regarding U.S. participation in UNESCO, the Convention agreed on

two things only. They were (a) That the Congress be asked to investigate to see if UNESCO's programs are abiding by the principles laid down when the U.S. originally agreed to join in that agency's work, and (b) That Congress should take remedial action if it should find that UNESCO has strayed from its original purposes, specifically in the forbidden area of interfering with the educational system of member nations.

That resolution could mean withdrawal from UNESCO only if Congress should find that UNESCO is violating the terms on which the U.S. joined it, and if no other remedy could be found by Congress.

Had this action of the Legion been reported properly, it could scarcely have won anything but the approval of the American people and press.

2. Newspapers and magazines far from Miami said in editorials that a "little clique" in The American Legion,

meeting in a "smoke-filled room," made up of "rabble rousers" and "professional veterans" wrote the supposed resolution "demanding that the U. S. get out of UNESCO" and that the Legionnaires at the Convention who voted "yes" were good-natured but stupid fellows (some papers) or blind drunks (*Denver Post* cartoon) who didn't know what they were doing.

Although it is really not to the point, it is about time that the idea of the drunken delegate to Legion national conventions was brought out into the air. Writers who still have this idea are advised to wire the police departments and hotel owners of San Francisco, New York, Miami, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Washington where the last ten national conventions have been held, for facts about the conduct and sobriety of their Legion guests.

In view of the yarn about the little clique in the smoke-filled room, Legionnaires who weren't at the Convention are entitled to know just how the UNESCO resolution that really was passed was prepared.

The "Smoke-Filled Room"

The "smoke-filled room" was the very neat, air-conditioned Old South Room, located on the mezzanine of the



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Legion Convention in Miami did not "Bid U.S. Cut UNESCO Ties" despite *N.Y. Times* story (left) of Oct. 13. Right, *Denver Post* cartoon gives baseless concept of how Legion delegates deliberated UNESCO issue. Such overprotection of UN and its agencies at expense of plain truth helps undermine public confidence in them.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION



Some of the 65 delegates who worked two full days, on UNESCO resolution that Convention adopted, in Old South Room of Miami's Everglades Hotel, Past Nat'l Cmdr Ray Murphy (Iowa) gives attentive committee his views in favor of UNESCO.

Everglades Hotel on Biscayne Boulevard in Miami. It had nearly seventy chairs and a long head table.

To draft a final resolution on UNESCO, 65 Legionnaires met in this room for two days. They made up a joint committee, since they were the full bodies of both the convention committee on Americanism and the convention committee on Foreign Relations. The members had been named to the committees by the Legion organizations in their own states and territories. Some of them were very strongly for UNESCO and some of them were very strongly against UNESCO, and most of them were anxious to hear both sides of what was a hot question.

More time was spent on the UNESCO resolution by two full convention committees than was spent by any one committee on any other of the 651 resolutions that were before the Convention. For seven hours on Oct. 9, Legionnaire proponents and opponents of UNESCO had the floor, with their time evenly divided. After giving its case, each side answered questions posed by members of the whole committee.

The meeting was open to any Legionnaire, whether he were a committee member or not, and several non-committee members sat in and listened. The meeting was open to representatives of the State Department, which has an interest in UNESCO. Two men served as co-chairmen of the committee meetings, Rogers Kelley, State Senator from Edinburg, Texas, and Archie Closson of Lodi, California.

After the long, full debate, a joint subcommittee of 10 retired to draft a resolution. Its members were John Barnhardt, of Concord, N. C.; Roane Waring, Past Nat'l Cmdr, of Memphis, Tenn.; Joe C. Jenkins, of Gainesville, Fla.; William G. McKinley, Jersey City, N. J.; Leon Happell, Stockton, Calif.;

Richard C. Cadwallader, Baton Rouge, La.; Dr. Robert Cleere, San Angelo, Texas; Victor C. Overeash, Cut Bank, Mont.; Edmund G. Lyons, Clifton, N. J., and Frank Bottiglierio, Chicago, Ill.

The subcommittee drafted a resolution which was brought back out, considered, altered and voted upon by the full joint committee, 60 of whom were then in attendance. The final resolution was adopted by the joint committee by a vote of 55 to 5, on Oct. 11.

On Oct. 12, a full reading of the committee resolution on UNESCO was made to the full Convention, and written copies were passed out to the press. No debate was offered from the floor, the question was called, and the resolution passed by a large voice vote. Passage was clear and unmistakable. No one exercised the right to demand a roll call.

Were the delegates voting blindly on a subject to which they had given no attention?

Earlier in the year, 20 Department Conventions had considered and debated resolutions bearing on UNESCO, and 15 of them adopted resolutions, 12 of which had been sent to the National Convention.

Before the final resolution was read to the Convention, most State delegations had caucused on the question of UNESCO in their own quarters or on the Convention floor. The delegates had known for months in advance that this would be one of the hottest subjects of the meeting. It was one of the most widely discussed pre-Convention topics.

3. What was in the UNESCO resolution?

As stated above, no withdrawal from UNESCO was urged, almost the entire American press to the contrary. The joint committee was most circumspect in asking Congress to find the facts and be guided by them, in the face of strong

urgings from some to (a) bless, or (b) condemn UNESCO outright. The action was neither a vote of confidence in UNESCO, nor a final condemnation.

Another part of the resolution was much more militant, and would have rated the headlines over the false "Get Out of UNESCO" story, had the facts been reported correctly. It clearly asked that the United States abolish the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO.

This National Commission is *not* UNESCO. It is an official group of American citizens and organizations, created by Congress for the somewhat vague purpose of acting in an advisory or promotional capacity relating to our government's participation in UNESCO. The National Commission for UNESCO (which we will call the "UNESCO Commission" for short) is made up of unpaid representatives of many well-known and respected American organizations, and many individual citizens. It also has a regular staff of employees who work in the U. S. State Dep't.

One need not look far to find reasons why the Legion Convention asked that the UNESCO Commission be abolished.

Off and on, the UNESCO Commission has been the camp of a host of extreme left-wingers.

The Commission's duties and purposes are vague.

Its staff, and some of its members, have often interpreted it to be their duty to sell UNESCO to the American people, which would seem to be a dubious job for a government commission.

In the months before the recent Legion Convention, the staff of the UNESCO Commission had interested itself in influencing the Legion to bring out a resolution favorable to UNESCO. Commission staff members, working out of the State Dep't, had been influential in having editorials published in major magazines and newspapers advising Legion delegates how to vote on questions relating to UNESCO, and had sought to have high officials of the Federal Government use their personal influence to sway the Legion delegates. The delegates at Miami felt, to say the least, that this too was improper for a government commission.

(It can be reliably reported that many in the State Dep't outside of the UNESCO Commission share that opinion.)

It is most unlikely that the respected American organizations that are represented on the UNESCO Commission were involved in this politicking. It would be surprising if the U. S. Chamber of Commerce or the Veterans of Foreign Wars had endorsed the UNESCO Commission's lobbying in the Legion in favor of UNESCO.

That the politicking went on anyway bears out a fear which the Legion has expressed in refusing to have a Legion representative placed on the UNESCO Commission — a fear that the respected American civic, fraternal, and professional groups who are represented on the Commission at occasional meetings may — in practice — be used as little more than a letterhead list to give respectability to the activities of the UNESCO Commission's full time staff and its individual members.

The Big Question

Behind all this to-do about UNESCO lies the meat of the question, which has not been answered.

It is well documented that, over a period of many years, somebody has been propagandizing in the United States — with children and teachers as their main target — in a campaign to break down the sovereignty of the United States Government and any sense of nationalism, or patriotism, or national loyalty in the United States.

The declared purpose of this campaign is to make the United States more receptive to a world government by raising a generation of children who have no national loyalty.

UNESCO, a UN agency for the promotion of educational, scientific and cultural programs in member nations, has been dragged into this picture, or has walked into it.

It is certain that those world government proponents who believe that national loyalty must be destroyed see in UNESCO a means of carrying out their

purposes. UNESCO is an educational agency without any national affiliation.

The educational programs of UNESCO have been widely advertised, supported and boosted as a channel for ridding children of that love of their own lands and cultures which "blocks world government."

Children are the special target, and UNESCO is the natural UN agency to be used.

Is UNESCO directly and purposely involved in this? Are people who are closely allied to UNESCO carrying on this campaign, *sub rosa*, without being officially tied to UNESCO? Is UNESCO itself an innocent victim of enemies of national sovereignty who aspire to control UNESCO and make it their tool? If so, what success have they had?

Ask these questions and you may be told that UNESCO predicts earthquakes in Japan, schools Arab children, studies problems in Indonesia, untangles legal codes in Turkey, helps village life in Pakistan, advises Bolivia on internal problems, runs a school in Patzcuaro, Mexico to teach experts to raise living standards of adult illiterates, etc.

All of which is true, most of which is fine, none of which answers the question.

The American Legion, in Miami, asked an end to all propagandizing in our schools aimed at destroying loyalty to the United States.

The American Legion, in Miami, asked the Congress to stop agencies of our government from selling UNESCO on faith and to seek out the truth and act on the truth as the Congress finds it.

Seek Better Pensions

At the Miami Convention, The American Legion committed itself to seek, through Congress and VA regulations, three major improvements in the present system of pensions for war veterans.

Two of these improvements were adopted by the Convention.

The first was a Massachusetts resolution for at least a 10% rise in all veterans' compensation and pensions.

The second was a Rhode Island resolution seeking to raise the ceilings on income which determine in part a veteran's eligibility for a pension. Now, no veteran may qualify for a pension if his income is more than \$1400 (no dependents) or \$2700 (one or more dependents). The resolution reaffirms the Legion's demand that these ceilings be raised to \$1800 and \$3000 respectively.

The third, and perhaps the most important, improvement was not adopted by the Convention but was referred to the standing American Legion Nat'l Rehabilitation Commission. However, the chairman of that Commission, Robert M. McCurdy (Calif.) indicated that the Commission would act favorably upon it, when, referring to all three proposed improvements, he told the Convention that he viewed the "combination of these three bills" as a single pension program for The American Legion.

The third was a California resolution to seek a change in pension eligibility so that, *on reaching age 65, any veteran whose income is within the prescribed ceilings will be eligible for a pension.*

MORE NEW DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS FOR 1955-56

ALABAMA



JOHN S. FOSTER
Post 1
Birmingham

ALASKA



E. W. VAN HORN
Post 13
Sitka

ILLINOIS



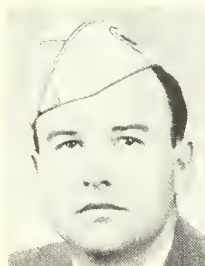
AL W. LEONHARD
Post 66
De Kalb

KANSAS



KEITH G. SEBELIUS
Post 63
Norton

KENTUCKY



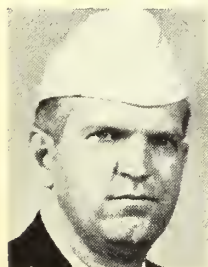
D. B. HANCOCK
Post 8
Lexington

LOUISIANA



A. V. LABICHE
Post 273
New Orleans

MINNESOTA



DANIEL F. FOLEY
Post 50
Wabasha

NEW JERSEY



DON HART
Post 95
Bridgeton

OKLAHOMA



CHAS. W. HOSHALL
Post 35
Oklahoma City

PENNSYLVANIA



JOHN F. STAY
Post 264
Philadelphia

RHODE ISLAND



WM. E. MOFFAT
Post 61
Norwood

WEST VIRGINIA



CHESTER PHILLIPS
Post 29
Elkins

At present, a veteran whose income is within the established ceilings may get a pension at any age, *provided that he is found to be permanently and totally disabled and unemployable*. The new resolution asks that age 65 be recognized as an age at which, without regard to other things, a veteran be *automatically* recognized as disabled and unemployable for pension purposes.

The combined effect of the above improvements would be to pay a better pension to those eligible, and to make all war veterans eligible at age 65 if their income is under the ceilings—which ceilings would be higher than they are now.

By November 1, the American Legion's Washington staff had prepared initial drafts of bills to effect all three changes.

The pension improvements offered in these resolutions were generally lost sight of at the Convention in the more exciting debate over another pension resolution, submitted by Illinois, asking that the Legion support legislation to pay \$100-a-month pensions to all World War I veterans at age 60.

This so-called "general pension" resolution was rejected by a vote of 2110 to 808.

The action on all of the above resolutions established more clearly than ever what The American Legion's position is regarding veterans' pensions.

The Legion is *opposed to committing itself* to seek pensions (which are not related to service-connected disabilities) for veterans who have no need of them.

It is definitely *committed* to seeking a pension for every veteran who does need it.

If the policy is carried out, no veteran who is disabled and unemployable at any age will be denied a pension unless his income, even when disabled and unemployable, is somewhat in excess of the national average income for (a) an individual person (if he has no dependents) or (b) for a family (if he has dependents).

And no question of disability or unemployability will be raised if the veteran is 65 years old. The pension law will, for the first time, recognize the fact that age 65 is the customary age when the U. S. economy, by almost universal consent, decrees that a man or woman may work no more.

In rejecting the Illinois resolution seeking a \$100-a-month pension at age 60 based upon age alone, the debate at the Convention was lively. When more than two-thirds of the delegates voted against the resolution, they took into consideration these facts:

(a) The pension would be payable to millionaires as well as the needy;

(b) Both Democrat and Republican Congresses and Administrations have indicated that they will never again pass such a pension law. (A pension based on age, without regard to need, was awarded Spanish War vets);

(c) The present pension system is under study in Washington with an apparent view to cutting it back;

(d) Cutbacks can be prevented, and the present system improved, only if the influence of The American Legion is successfully brought to bear in the Congress;

(e) The Congress will respect the Legion's influence and advice only if the Legion comes to it with constructive and logical proposals;

(f) Congress will ignore the Legion, and lose its traditional reliance upon it in matters relating to veterans benefits, if the Legion insists on a pension law that would pay \$100 a month to wealthy veterans;

(g) Passage of the resolution would give veterans the satisfaction of *demanding* the general pension, at the great risk of losing such improved pensions as might be obtained.

(h) In substance, the delegates refused to jeopardize improved pensions for veterans who need them by refusing to commit the Legion to seek pensions for veterans who do not need them. Instead they outlined a militant and justifiable program for better pensions for all veterans who do need them.

FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC:

Criticism Mounts

More news on the Fund for the Republic, whose paid ad and The American Legion's answer to it appear on pages 44-45 of this issue, has popped since those pages were closed.

Missing from the ad on page 44 was the name of Fund for the Republic Director Arthur Dean, former U. S. peace negotiator in Korea and former law partner of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Shortly after the ad copy was received, Dean publicly announced that he had resigned from the Fund for "policy reasons." Dean got some hard-headed experience in dealing with communists in Korea.

Last September, American Legion Nat'l Cmdr Seaborn Collins (N. Mex.) advised Legion Posts to have nothing to do with the Fund for the Republic which, his statement said in substance, was spending huge sums in a widely publicized "fact-finding" and "public education" mission regarding communism in the U. S. which endangers U. S. security by glossing over the true meaning of communism.

Late in October, the Legion's new Nat'l Cmdr, J. Addington Wagner (Mich.), endorsed Collins' statement, continued the same advice to Legion Posts during his administration as National Commander.

Meanwhile, one of the Fund's big projects got a tongue lashing from experts. The project: The Fund for the Republic's "Bibliography on the Communist Problem in the United States." This is a 475-page list of books and other reading matter supposedly published to help scholars, students, or others interested in the communist problem to find the most informative (in the Fund's estimate) published works on communism in America.

The Fund has given more than 1200 copies of its big bibliography on communism to libraries, schools, colleges and public agencies since last January.

By the first of November, scholars on communism had condemned the bibliography in the same terms with which Past Nat'l Cmdr Collins had indicted the general operation of the Fund. It omitted from its huge list many of the most penetrating works that expose the true meaning of communism. On Oct. 28, the *New York World-Telegram and Sun* summarized the scolding that experts had given the Fund's bibliography.

Said Philip Taft, professor of economics at Brown University, and an expert on communism in the trade unions: "You [the Fund] deserve a vote of thanks from the Communist Party. For non-Communists it [the bibliography] is an outrageous performance."

Dr. John A. Sessions ripped into the Fund's bibliography in a review in *The New Leader*. "If the Fund for the Republic," wrote Dr. Sessions, "seriously wishes to defend itself against such attacks as have been leveled against it by Fulton Lewis and The American Legion, it must do something to make amends for this bibliography."

"The job has been so badly done that nothing remains but to do it over again."

Dr. Sessions is assistant director of The International Ladies Garment Workers' Training Institute. The Garment Workers' union has been one of the great battlegrounds chosen by the communists for the control of labor in America, a battleground on which they were soundly whipped by union leader David Dubinsky. Dr. Sessions is also a former professor at Cornell and Michigan universities.

Author John T. Farrell charged the Fund's bibliography with "inexcusable sloppiness." Of Farrell's many important works on communism, only one is listed in the bibliography—a piece by Farrell condemning Trotskyism which, of all Farrell's works, would probably

displease the anti-Trotsky Stalinists the least. Unlisted is Farrell's important work showing how communists use writers and book reviewers to peddle the party line and kill sales of anti-communist books.

While the Fund for the Republic's volume contains thousands of references to anti-Communist literature, Dr. Sessions stated declaratively that "the compilers . . . consistently omitted the more important works of many of the very writers who have done the most to illuminate the Communist problem."

Arthur Koestler, one of the most brilliant writers on communism, is represented by one newspaper article and none of his books, said Dr. Sessions. Nothing written by Bertram Wolfe since 1934 is listed, he said. No mention is made, he said, of Angelica Balabanoff, first secretary of the Communist International, "whose autobiography is one of the most illuminating accounts we have of the internal operation of the Comintern."

Other hard-headed writers about communism whose works have been poorly represented in the bibliography, or not represented at all, include Dwight MacDonald, Max Eastman, Liston Oak, Norman Thomas, William Henry Chamberlain, James Rorty, Joseph Wood Krutch and David Dalin.

Dr. Sessions concluded that the bibliography would fail to direct scholars to the "most significant" works on communism, and instead direct them "away from some of the most telling indictments of Communist methods."

The *New York World-Telegram and Sun* quoted a Fund for the Republic spokesman as saying that the bibliography was "prepared independently of the Fund. We had absolutely nothing to do with its contents and never touched the manuscript."

Other activities of the Fund have followed this pattern. It has financed operations of other groups, then disclaimed knowledge of the details of how the money was spent or the work carried out. In New York, Fund money, spent through another organization, was recently reported to be paying for the legal defense of a group which held a rally in a public park during a Civil Defense drill, contrary to the Civil Defense laws of the State of New York.

BRIEFLY NOTED:

► In October Nat'l Cmdr J. Addington Wagner sent a \$10,000 check from The American Legion Disaster Relief Fund to the Dep't of Connecticut for aid in rehabilitation of vets and their families who suffered in the Eastern floods. Hundreds of Posts are contributing to the fund.

► The Newark (N.J.) *Star-Ledger* is the winner of The American Legion Ed-

itorial Award for 1954-55. Honorable Mention citations were won by the New York (N.Y.) *Journal-American*, the Watertown (S.Dak.) *Public Opinion*, the Ely (Nev.) *Daily Times*, and Trenton (N.J.) *Trentonian* for "outstanding editorials appraising the principles and accomplishments of The American Legion as exemplified in its programs for 1954-55."

► Francis E. Bretschneider, Box 148, Minneota, Minn., has one picture each of three oldtime outfits which he offers free to anyone who appears in the photographs. The units are: Co. B, 6th Minn. Inf., Camp Knute Nelson, 1923; Battery C, 2nd Trench Mortar Bn., A.E.F. 1918-1919; and 2nd Trench Mortar Bn., A.E.F., 1918-1919.

► Disaster dogged the Drum and Bugle Corps of Post 199, Hawthorne, N.J., at the Nat'l Convention in Miami. Corps, known as the Caballeros, was the defending nat'l champion. In the final competition Caballeros performed in pouring rain that started and stopped with their performance. They finished fourth. Rain damaged their instruments, messed up their uniforms. Then, en route home, fire completely destroyed the uniforms and the panel truck carrying them, a few miles north of Neptune, Ga. Caballeros' business manager, John McAuliffe, who was driving the truck, had

to buy new car to get home. Loss was in the neighborhood of \$7,000.

► The American Legion Junior Baseball team of Post 4, Billings, Mont., has played 248 games (won 215; lost 33) in the past six years, and has traveled 41,250 miles to do it. Post would like to hear from any Legion Junior Baseball team anywhere interested in scheduling Billings on a home-and-home basis. Post is particularly interested in teams which have placed high in tournaments.

► Maj. Adolphe L. Boyce died at age 89 in Cornwall, N. Y., on Nov. 6. Famous as the trainer of the "broomstick army," Boyce was a founder and the first Commander of Tiger Post 23, N. Y. C. He drilled more than 30,000 civilian volunteers on Governors Island, N. Y., preparatory for WWI service. His trainees were known as the "Tigers."

► Patients at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital in Montana now see their movies projected on the fireproof screen bought with money contributed by Posts and 40&8 Voitures in that Dep't.

► Auxiliary of Dep't of Wisconsin recently gave a \$25,000 greenhouse to the Tomah VA Hospital.

► On Sept. 23, then Nat'l Cmdr Seaborn P. Collins gave a piece of rock from Corregidor to the 503rd Airborne Infantry Reg't at Fort Campbell, Ky.

(Continued on next page)

IT SMELLS GRAND



HERE'S THE SEASON'S
FRAGRANCE HIT!

IT PACKS RIGHT



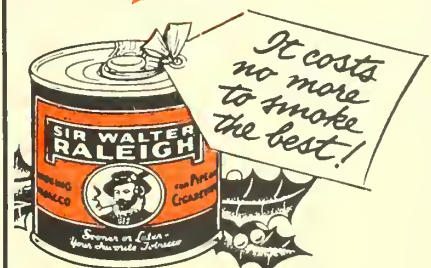
THERE'S LOTS
OF FUN IN LOADING IT!

IT SMOKES SWEET



AND MAN—WHAT PLEASURE
WHEN IT'S LIT!

IT CAN'T BITE!



SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S BLEND OF
CHOICE KENTUCKY BURLEYS IS
EXTRA-AGED TO GUARD AGAINST
TONGUE BITE. XMAS WRAPPED
...IT MAKES A PERFECT GIFT.

BRIEFLY NOTED

(Continued)

Members of the regiment took part in the recapture of Corregidor, in a parachute on Feb. 16, 1945, and turned it over to Gen. MacArthur on Mar. 2. Since then the 503rd has been known as the Rock Regiment. Many of those who retook Corregidor were present as Collins gave the regiment its official piece of Corregidor rock, procured from the Philippines by The American Legion. ► Eighth District of California presented 10 sets of documents (including the Constitution of the U. S., the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence) to San Francisco public and parochial schools.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

The citation of an individual Legionnaire to life membership in his Post is a testimonial by those who know him best that he has served The American Legion well.

Below are some of the life membership citations in 1955 recently reported by Post officials:

Jan. 1: George C. Huhshmitt, Post 145, Glen Rock, N.J.
Jan. 11: Althert I. Almand, Post 1, Atlanta, Ga.
Jan. 22: Patrick P. Petrone, Post 885, Chicago, Ill.

Feb. 8: Fred Fore and Maxie K. McMillan, Post 89, Mullins, S. C.
Feb. 9: Ray C. Coulon, Post 2, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Feb. 17: Donald V. Gayton, Post 470, Altadena, Calif.
Feb. 19: A. J. McNeil, Post 755, Manteno, Ill.
Feb. 26: Rohert J. Whitehead, Post 810, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mar. 4: Dr. Humphrey D. Wolfe, Post 181, Penns Grove, N.J.
April 2: Philip L. Schuyler, Post 144, Scituate, Mass.
June 14: G. H. Stordock, Post 161, King, Wis.
June 20: George S. Robinson, Post 628, Troy, N. Y.
June 23: A. A. Paddock, Post 10, Boulder, Colo.
June 28: A. V. Wilson, Post 196, Westminster, Colo.
July 6: Harold A. Schindler, Post 44, Newburgh, Ind.
July 21: J. Rogers Cohan, Post 36, Savannah, Ga.
Aug. 2: Roy R. Edwards and Louis S. Sims, Post 35, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Among the many life memberships awarded to Legionnaires, now living, before they were regularly listed on these pages are the following:

Fred H. Brinkman (1935) and A. A. E. Benoit (1936) and Louis A. Lopes (1937) and M. W. Bailey (1941), Post 399, San Jose, Calif.
Arthur W. Zill and John L. McPherson (both 1954), Post 819, Los Angeles, Calif.
Henry G. Gessart and A. R. Troutman (both 1950), Post 90, Holyoke, Colo.
Mary L. Crosby (1951), Post 170, West Palm Beach, Fla.
B. C. Fowler (1953), Post 38, Fort Myers, Fla.
Michael E. Waters (1948), Post 274, Rochester, Ill.
Henry C. Bax and Joseph W. Bergrath and George C. Dittman and William George (all 1954), Post 307, Venice, Ill.

Antion F. Finke (1950), Post 593, Crawfordsville, Iowa.
Edward Shibley and Desire Begin (both 1953), Post 14, Fairfield, Maine.
Amedeo V. Iannelli and Nicholas Scaramella (both 1953), Post 53, Boston, Mass.
Earl F. Ganschow (1951) and Ephrian F. McNally (1952) and Martin Mitchell (1954), Post 22, Saginaw, Mich.
Don L. Beardslee (1950), Post 101, Greenville, Mich.
Arthur M. Edwards (1953), Post 81, Contoocook, N. H.
Ernest F. Drake (1951), Post 76, Princeton, N. J.
George F. DeZeller (1942), Post 107, New York, N. Y.
Frank J. Rooney (1948), Post 316, Staten Island, N. Y.
Carlyle Myers (1952) Post 397, Andover, N. Y.
Mark Schneider (1953), Post 524, Cincinnati, Ohio.
George Alpheus Moore (1952), Post 55, Duncan, Okla.
L. LeRoy Deininger (1951), Post 482, Phoenixville, Pa.
George Kahin and J. Arthur Younger (both 1921) and Stephen F. Chadwick and Ralph H. Hall (both 1922), Post 1, Seattle, Wash.
E. K. Brown (1954), Post 8, Ellensburg, Wash.
Frank J. Brodzeller (1951), Post 347, Lomira, Wis.

RECENT POST DOINGS:

Among members of Post 254, Sauk Rapids, Minn., are 14 brothers from 2 families — 9 Hollenhorst brothers and 5 Sova brothers.

Post 44, Arlington, Va., is staging a drive to get an American flag in every home and to have the flag displayed on every patriotic holiday. Post has circularized the homes in its area, and Post members have made personal calls at each home. Post sells 3' x 5' flags at considerably less than the usual retail price.

Past commanders of Post 478, Chicago, Ill., do not take a back seat in Post activities when their terms of office have expired. Six Past Post Commanders are serving as officers of the Post for the 1955-56 Legion year.

Post 447, Saranac Lake, N. Y., will hold its 10th Annual Sled Derby for boys and girls aged 5 to 15, at Mt. Pisgah Veterans Memorial Ski Center, in the Adirondacks Mts., during the week of Feb. 12. The Post and Saranac Police Dep't run the whole show for about 250 youngsters. Five of the 14 members of the U.S. 1956 Olympic Bobsled Team are members of Post 447, and will compete in Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy, in January. They are Monroc Flagg, Jim Bickford, Hubert Miller, Jim Lamy, and Larry McKillip.

The home of Post 324, Genoa, Ohio, serves as a classroom for 74 pupils in the fifth grade of the local public schools.

Post 10, Winfield, Kans., has given a scholarship to Patricia Arlene Riggs for the 1955-56 school year at Kans. State Teachers College of Emporia.

Farmer members of Post 199, Minneota, Minn., are paying off another installment (about \$3,000) on Post's \$55,000 home, built in 1948, by farming 115 acres using joint labor and pooled farm machinery of members and friends. Debt is now down to \$18,000.

LEGION ZOUAVES IN NEW FILM



The famous Jackson Zouaves, rapid cadence drill team of Post 29, Jackson, Mich., are shown above as (top) they arrived in Hollywood recently, and (bottom) doing a comedy routine with Danny Kaye, who plays the title role in Paramount's new release, *The Count Jester*. Zouaves play role of a medieval palace guard in the film.

Post's "Operation Crop" will embrace 20-odd more acres next year.

Post 1148, Leaf River, Ill., has a membership of 45, but nine of those members who comprise the Post's color guard and firing squad finished fifth in the Dep't Firing Squad Contest and fifth in the Dep't Color Guard Competition.

Post 1522, New York, N. Y., composed of civil service employees, has a program of regular visits to the patients of New York's new VA facility. Post members make periodic visits to the hospital, distribute cigarettes and other items, ask the needs of individual patients and try to fulfil the patients' desires.

FLAG PROGRAM



During the five days that Legionnaires in the greater Cleveland, Ohio, area maintained a display booth (above) at a Do-It-Yourself Show in a local auditorium, they gave more than 20,000 small American Flags to children and about 10,000 copies of the American Flag Code to adults. Several who saw the booth also filled out membership applications.

Post 1086, Chicago, Ill., has a double-barreled plan which boosts attendance at Post meetings and provides a small U.S. Flag and staff for one member at each meeting. The plan works this way: attendance at the meeting makes a member eligible to win the flag and staff which are "raffled off" at each meeting.

Post 257, Springfield, Minn., is the first winner of the Nate Keller Trophy, awarded by the Dep't of Minn. for activity supporting the Civil Defense program.

Moments after disastrous explosions and fire struck an oil refinery at Whiting, Ind., members of Post 80, Whiting, were directing traffic, assisting in evacuation, and patrolling evacuated areas against looting. After the residential area had been cleared, the evacuation details began fighting the fire. A number of Legionnaires suffered minor burns when caught in the flash of a later explosion while serving as auxiliary firemen. Other Post members used their cars to maintain communications

(Continued on next page)

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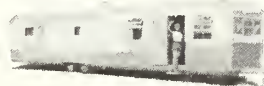
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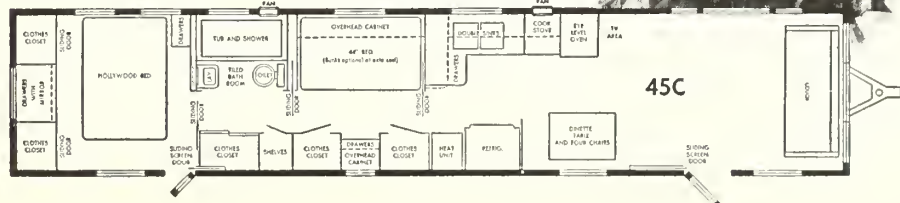


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RECENT POST DOINGS

(Continued)

between the downtown relief headquarters and the scene of the fire. They transported people, and delivered coffee and ice water to those unable to leave the scene, and also brought out fire fighters needing first aid. Many Post members were on duty for two full days. Members of the Auxiliary Unit helped Red Cross workers in preparing and serving food, in caring for evacuated children, in first aid work, and in supplying clothes for evacuees. Other Posts sent emergency supplies.

Post 1191, Hooppole, Ill., served sandwiches and coffee to the public at a mortgage-burning ceremony in appreciation of public backing that helped pay mortgage. Post lost its home when lightning burned it to the ground in 1952. A new building was begun in Jan. 1953. Post began job of paying for new home, and got excellent public support of fund-raising projects, the last of which was a tractor pulling contest Post sponsored last fall. Ninety-three tractors competed, and a crowd of 2,500 contributed about \$1,000 net, enough to finish paying the debt.

As part of its Back to God program, Post 1820, Brooklyn, N.Y., has arranged for posters carrying the message "Teach Children Religion" to be placed in all buses in Brooklyn.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

Doctors D. Arnold Dowell, Harry J. Jenkins, and James F. Kelly, Sr., all members of Post 1, Omaha, Nebr., are among the 19 doctors in the U.S.A. to receive Awards of Merit from the Medical Education Foundation for 1954.

Granville S. Ridley, chmn of The American Legion Nat'l Security Training Committee, named a board member and director at large of the Vanderbilt Univ. Development Foundation.

George Ehinger, chmn, Child Welfare Commission, appointed to Del. State Board of Corrections.

Ralph M. (Bob) Merrow, elected member of NEC from Maine.

Anthony J. Rumo, elected alt, member of NEC from Maine.

Joseph J. Foss, Governor of South Dakota and member of The American Legion Aeronautics Committee, named nat'l chmn of the 1956 Easter Seal Campaign.

John B. Barnard, Jr., Past Dep't Cmdr of Colorado (1954-55), named first ass't State attorney general.

Maj. Gen. Donald W. McGowan (N.J.), vice chmn of The American Legion Nat'l Security Training Committee, appointed chief, Army Div., Nat'l Guard Bureau.

Howard L. Consins, member, Mer-

chant Marine Committee, has become ass't to the president of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad.

Saxson E. Humphreys, alternate member of NEC from Dep't of Italy, has become ass't professor in Univ. of Illinois School of Journalism and Communications.

Wilbert L. Ney, elected Adj't of Dep't of Panama, C.Z., replacing Joe C. Hearn, Jr. who has been recalled to Stateside duty.

Harry Wright, elected Adj't of Dep't of Mexico.

Jack Langford, Past Dep't Cmdr of Georgia (1954-55), elected Adjutant, succeeding Robert A. Joiner, resigned.

Died:

Edgar Brown Dunlap, Sr., a director of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corp., at Gainesville, Ga. He had been Dep't Cmdr of Georgia (1923-24), member of NEC (1930-33), and a longtime member of Nat'l Finance Commission.

William Frank Keller, of Springdale, Ark., aged 95, one of the oldest members of The American Legion.

Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, Past Dep't Chaplain of South Dakota (1945-46), in Deadwood, S. Dak.

George A. Leber, of Tonawanda, N.Y., N.Y. Dep't Child Welfare Chmn since 1942.

Dr. Guglielmo M. Trojano, Service Officer of Dep't of Italy since 1945.

Nelson Morris, alt, member of NEC from Dep't of France, suddenly, in New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Lena Stordock, mother of Nat'l Vice Cmdr Gilman H. Stordock, at King, Wis.

Richard A. Morrissey, Past Nat'l Sgt at Arms (1937-38) and Aide to Nat'l Cmdr James F. O'Neil (1947), suddenly, in Chelsea, Mass.

Bertrand W. Gearhart, Past Dep't Cmdr of California (1930-31). He attended the St. Louis Caucus.

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Space does not permit notices to contact persons for any purpose except to assist in establishing a claim for a veteran or his dependents. Statement to that effect should accompany notice.

Send notices to: Comrades in Distress, The American Legion Magazine, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, New York.

Army

1st Div, 16th Inf, Co C—The late Charles William ("Bill") Kennedy served in France during the period 1917-1919. He also served with the 40th Div, 115th Supply Train under Maj E. D. Housholder. In order to establish claim, his widow needs to hear from someone who knew her husband. Write her, Mrs. C. W. Kennedy, Apartado postal no. 189, Tampico, Tamps., Mexico.

2nd Armored Div, 17th Armored Engr Bn, Co A—

In order to establish claim, I need to contact the following men with whom I served in Germany: Richard Heck (Calif.), Albert Akar (Calif.), Walter Duke (Pa.), Olav Andresen (Brooklyn, N. Y.), George Choate (Ky.), Write me, Gary E. Wertz, 200 25th Ave., Altoona, Pa.

6th Armored Cav Reg't—While playing football in Straubing, Germany, in Aug. or Sept. 1950, my shoulder was injured. I was treated at the post dispensary by a German civilian doctor. No record was made of my treatment and condition. Need to hear from someone who recalls the incident, especially from Pfc Debrick (Ohio), Sgt Martin (Cleveland, Ohio), and Cpl James Flynn (Baltimore, Md.) Write me, Victor J. Pranscavage, 526 Pine Hill St., Minersville, Pa. Claim pending.

6th Armored Div, 86th Recon Bn, Co D—In order to establish claim, I need to hear from anyone who saw or who knows about the accident in which my head was injured at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on or about Aug. 20, 1952. Write me, James McCormick, Woonsocket, S. Dak.

8th Cavalry, Troop I—While jumping a horse over a hurdle while drilling with this troop in July 1916, I fell on the hilt of my saber and was severely injured. I did not receive medical attention at the time, and was discharged from active service without a physical examination. In order to establish claim, I need to contact someone who recalls the incident. Write me, Joseph J. Mann, 7242 S. Emerald Ave., Chicago 21, Ill.

9th Div, 39th Inf, Co A—On a night patrol near Merode, Germany, on the Rohr River, Dec. 7, 1944, Reed Palmer injured his back when he stepped off a roadside bank. He reported the incident to his medic, but stayed with the outfit because an attack was planned for the next morning. In Feb. 1945 Palmer was injured in a mine explosion, and on Feb. 26 he was wounded in a night attack along the Rohr River. On the patrol with Palmer were: Bernard Kramer (from near Chicago), Lawrence Numalli (Calif.), Sgt Hubert Bains (Va.). Also in his outfit and acquainted with the incident and Palmer's subsequent disability were: George Solnitsky (Minneapolis), Lt Stratton (Idaho), Frank Mathias (N. Mex.), and Jesse James Rose (Va.). In order to establish claim, he needs to hear from someone who recalls these incidents or who knows the whereabouts of some of the men listed above. Write Lou Babb, Adj't, The American Legion, Dep't of Montana, Box 82-Capitol Station, Helena, Mont.

11th Airborne Div Jump School, Sendai, Japan—T/5 Norton L. Clock was in Class 10 (Jan. 17 or 18 to Jan. 30, 1946) at this school; his group qualified as paratroopers on Jan. 29, 1946. At the time his home organization was a medical detachment assigned to H & S Co, 127th Airborne Engr Bn. Clock recalls that his stick of troopers jumped in a strong wind, and that several of them were hurt—two men of Mexican extraction broke their legs, and a man from Charlotte, N. C., broke his hip at the same time. He also recalls a man named Bylock, who was about 5' 11" tall and who weighed about 160 lbs. At the time of this incident Bylock, a professional baseball player, was about 20 or 21 years old; he was a T/4. Write George W. Ruon, Dep't Service Officer, The American Legion, Fargo, N. Dak. Claim pending.

13th Sanitary Train, Ambulance Co 249 (Animal Drawn)—While serving at Camp Lewis, Wash. in Oct. or Nov. 1918, I suffered a severe attack of influenza and pneumonia. In order to establish claim, I need to hear from: R. H. Dana, W. H. Hoeg, E. B. Ehlers, Sgt R. H. Buel, Cpl H. E. Crum, Sgt R. O. McDowell, or anyone else who remembers me. Write me, Grover S. Giles, Mullen, Nebr.

15th Constab Sqdn, Troop E—In 1945 or 1946 A. G. Ryland suffered a back injury. He now needs to contact Buford Nunnally, who served with him. Write A. G. Ryland, R.D. 3, Box 136, Alexandria, La. Claim pending.

21st Engrs (Light Railway), Co B—In order to establish claim, the widow of Pfc Harry D. Meyers needs to contact someone who served with him. Write her, Mrs. Goldie V. Meyers, 10 Public Square, Hagerstown, Md.

23rd QM, Trieste (FTT)—In order to establish claim, I need to contact anyone who served with me in WW2, especially 1st Sgt Awad or 1st Sgt Stohers. Write me, Pasquale Besciglia, 305 N. Hyde Park Ave., Scranton 4, Pa.

38th Combat Engrs, Medics—My husband, the late Eugene A. ("Tommy") Thompson, served overseas in WW2; he had malaria sometime between 1942 and 1945. I need to know the names and addresses of some of his buddies. Especially need to know the address of Harold Peterson, of South Bend, Ind. Write me, Mrs. Elna K. Thompson, R.D. 1, Winslow, Ind. Claim pending.

41st Div, 167th Field Artillery, Battery C (WW2)—Need to hear from the following men or from someone who knows their whereabouts: 1st Sgt Melvin Davis (from around Seattle,

Wash.). Henry F. Harp (from around Sheldon, Iowa), Charles Berry (from around Minneapolis, Minn.). Write me, **Raleigh D. Brown**, Box 226, Weldon, N. C. Claim pending.

77th Field Artillery, Battery D—At Fort D. A. Russell, Marfa, Tex., there was an epidemic of mumps in June and July 1939. I had the mumps on both sides, and was permanently damaged by them. I now need to hear from someone who served with me then, especially from Sgt Hamilton (who was 1st Sgt of Battery D), and Col Blackwell of the medical detachment. Write me, **Wilson C. Bridges**, Dime Box, Tex. Claim pending.

79th Div, 79th Signal Co—In order to establish claim, I need to hear from someone—especially from Co Commander, Capt William A. Schiotti—who served with me at Camp Bland, Fla., or Camp Forrest, Tenn., in 1942 or 1943. I was active as a prizefighter at the time. Write me, **James L. Williams**, Ward 9W, VA Hospital, 408 1st Ave., New York, N. Y.

90th Div, 358th Inf, Hq Co—Need to hear from anyone who recalls gas attack near town of Mouzay, France, Nov. 10, 1918, or from anyone who recalls that **Pfc Lee Deer** was gassed at that time. Also need to hear from any supply man of this company who recalls that a defective gas mask was turned in on Nov. 11, 1918. Also need to learn the whereabouts of Band Leader Ned Masterson and Regt's Sgt Maj Raymond Roberts. Write L. R. Deer, 7412 E. Smeltzer Ave., Santa Ana, Calif. Claim pending.

78th ITR, 116th ITB, Co A—At Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., my back and neck were injured on the obstacle course. A few days later I fell out on a hike, but was not hospitalized. Need to contact anyone who recalls these incidents, especially Capt Vickers and Sgt Gebbert. While with the **23rd Inf, Co C**, at Fort Lewis, Wash., I was sent to the 23rd Dispensary because of back and neck trouble. I was X-rayed by a doctor (major) at Madigan General Hospital in late Aug. 1946. My right hand was injured while on maneuvers in Aliso Canyon, Calif., in late 1946. Need to hear from someone who recalls this incident, especially T/4 Meaders and Cpl Robert Anderson of the 23rd Medics. Also need to hear from, Capt Pream, Pfc Robert Beam, Sgt England, Sgt Ehler, Lt James A. Giovannia (a doctor), 1st Sgt Leonard McPherson, and Cpl Rhinehold Docktor (from N. Dak.) Write me, **James W. Butler**, P.O. Box 25, Shorter, Ala. Claim pending.

216th Armored Med Bn, Co A—Need to hear from anyone who gave me medicine or who knows that I took medicine for a nervous disorder while on maneuvers in the California desert in 1943; I spent a week in field hospital while there. I was also hospitalized at a camp in New Jersey while waiting to ship out, and I took medicine while I was in the ETO in 1944. I was a cook, known as "Pop." Write me, **Herman A. Gilmore**, 244 Padgett St., Morganfield, Ky. Claim pending.

440th Sep CA Bn—While on maneuvers in Apr. or May 1943, I was injured and hospitalized at Camp Haan, Calif. Need to hear from someone who remembers the injury or the hospitalization, especially from Lt McCarty and Capt Deedrickson. Write me, **Albert N. Rice**, R.D. 1, Haviland, Kans. Claim pending.

476th Motor Truck Co, 419th Supply Train—One afternoon in 1918 I was one of a group of men moving the company box of records to the train from Longieres, France, because we were to move that night. As we were taking the box off the truck, the handle came off the box; I fell onto the track, hurting my back and both wrists. I was put on the train and left there. I was supposed to have been accompanied by some of the men that night. In order to establish claim, I need to hear from someone who recalls these incidents. Write me, **William H. Hathaway**, 33 Andover Ave., S. Attleboro, Mass.

1922nd SCU, Post Hq Detachment, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.—In order to establish claim, the widow of **George E. Givens** needs to hear from someone who served with her late husband. Givens entered the service Aug. 3, 1943; he served with the **327th ASF Band** (played trap drums) also; he was discharged at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Write Mrs. Pauline Givens, 2304 NW. 14th Ct., Box 1725, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

9135th TSU, Hq Co (QMC)—While on duty in the mess hall at Fort Lee, Va., about Aug. 1-3, 1950, I cut my left thumb severely while sharpening a butcher knife. I was taken to the Fort Lee Hospital and given first aid (nine stitches). Those on duty at the time were: Sfc Stanley (Mess Sgt); Ass't Mess Sgt Walker; Sgt Homer Bradshaw and Cpl Frank Capaldi (cooks); and Pfc Gill (baker). I was a cpl at the time. Write me, **Charles W. Taylor**, 2218 Clark St., Columbia, S. C. Claim pending.

Atlanta (Ga.) Ordnance Motor Base, 3rd Provisional Co—On Dec. 11, 1942, I suffered a leg injury; on Jan. 11, 1943, I suffered a back injury. Both of these injuries occurred while I was riding a motorcycle. In order to establish claim, I need to hear from someone who recalls these incidents. Write me, **William H. Hathaway**, 33 Andover Ave., S. Attleboro, Mass.

(Continued on next page)

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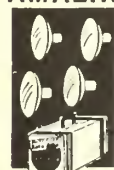
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Dept. AL-125 Bay City, Mich.

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

(Continued)

lish claim, I need to hear from someone who recalls these incidents, especially from Lt Pichard (the CO), Lt Martinez, Johnnie Souders, Lloyd Pyles, Cpl McIntosh, Ghyatt Smith, Fred Miller. Write me, George R. Souders, R.D. 2, Lillington, N. C.

Navy

USS Helena—This ship was sunk in 1943. My eyes were burned by gun flash, and my records were apparently lost when the ship went down. I now need to locate two buddies who were aboard ship with me: Raymond Smith and Wally Jones; both were in the Fifth Division on the ship. Anyone knowing the address of either of these men, write me, Charles Albert Hamilton, 356 Tryon Ave., Salem, Oreg. Claim pending.

USS Missouri—The widow of Harry D. Meyers seeks to learn the whereabouts of his brother, Oscar Meyers, in connection with establishment of claim. Oscar Meyers served aboard the Missouri, and it is thought that he may now be in California. Write Mrs. Goldie V. Meyers, 10 Public Square, Hagerstown, Md. Claim pending.

USS Oahu—Around the Marshall Islands in 1944-45 I was treated in sickbay for a back condition. In order to establish claim, I need to contact Salter or Diamond or anyone who remembers having treated me for this condition. Write me, Manuel R. Francis, 31 Rosemere Drive, East Providence, R. I.

USS O'Hare—In order to establish claim arising out of injury, I need to contact Martratt (first name unknown), Storekeeper 2c, from Albany, N. Y., who served with me in 1951. Anyone who knows his full name or address, write me, Robert T. Mendes, 194 Maxfield St., New Bedford, Mass.

USS Poole—In order to establish claim, I need to contact men who served with me aboard this ship during the period Sept. 1943-Mar. 1945. Especially need to hear from John Hansbury, Chief Gunner's Mate. Also need to hear from anyone who knew me at Seamanship School, Brigantine, N. J. (in a hotel taken over by the Coast Guard). Write me, (former GM 2c) Edward J. Vivian, 139 N. Pine Ave., Albany, N. Y.

USS Sampson—Need to contact anyone who served with me on this ship in New Guinea in 1944. I was a shell loader, and was injured in that campaign. Write me Joseph Hummel, 107 Baltimore Ave., Glen Dale, W. Va. Claim pending.

USS Thurston—In order to establish claim for injury (caused by gunfire) to eardrum, I need

to hear from anyone who served aboard this ship from Feb. 5, 1944 to Jan. 6, 1946. Write me, Clyde J. Miller, 437 Avenue A, Westwego, La.

Air

223rd Medical Dispensary (Aviation)—I served with this outfit from Mar. 1944 to Nov. 1945 in the CBI; I was a (medical) Technician 5th Grade. My injury was first noticed in Apr. or May 1944. In order to establish claim, I need to hear from someone who served in China with me. Especially recall: Capt Morrison, Sgt W. J. Schiele, Pfc L. Hemingway. Write me, James E. Leatherman, Box 561, Dodge City, Kans.

552nd Signal Aircraft Warning Bn, Ground Observer Co.—At Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., in early 1943 Joe N. Weheler collapsed while on "marathon march" of those over 38 years old. In order to establish claim, need to hear from anyone who was on the same march. Write his sister, Mrs. T. H. Keeler, 1890 Dayton Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.

581st AAFBU—In order to establish claim, I need to hear from anyone who served with me at Adams Field, Little Rock, Ark., in 1945. Recall Duncan, Forehan, Stolsek, McMahn, Long. Write me, James D. Carter, Burkley, Ky.

1057th QM Service Co., detached to 323rd Service Group, AAF—While on detached duty with the 323rd Service Group, AAF, Pvt Edward Sisco suffered a back injury at an airbase in Italy. He was sent to Rest Camp #2, Rome Area. In order to establish claim, he needs to hear from anyone who remembers him, especially from a lieutenant whose name was Gilzer or something similar. Write G. F. Sanders, County Service Officer, P.O. Box 294, Childress, Tex.

1915th Engineer Aviation Bn, Co A—In order to establish claim, I need to hear from anyone who served with me on Okinawa. Write me, (former Sgt) Mario A. Bier, 4947 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys, Calif.

Amarillo Army Air Base, Tex.—In order to establish claim, I need to hear from any WAC who served at this base in Nov. 1943. Also need to hear from Maj Cox, the surgeon. Write me, Edna E. Swope, Apt. 5, 1715 1/2 W. 39th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Brookley Field, Ala., Mobile Air Tech Service Command—Need to hear from anyone who knew my brother, Sgt Harry Ray Coggin. He was a crew chief at this field Jan-Mar. 1945. Especially need to hear from Maj Bankert, the CO, and from Capt Settles, a pilot, with whom Sgt Coggin made several flights to Miami, Atlanta, and Oklahoma. This is in regard to his nervous condition at Brookley and his hospitalization in field hospital there. Also need to hear from someone who served with him in the Aleutians in the 53rd (or 54th) Troop Carrier, Alaskan Defense Command, especially from Maj Hughes, M/Sgt Regan, Cpl Brumett (an elect. spec. who transferred from 42nd Troop Carrier to 54th). Coggin is now hospitalized, and help is needed in order to establish claim. Write, Coggin's sister, Mrs. Betty Coggin Bagg, 601 E. Gore Ave., Orlando, Fla.

Kearns Air Field, Utah, Hq and Hq Sqdn—Need to hear from anyone who knew me during 1942 and 1943 and from anyone who knows that I had ear trouble and of the times it kept me from duty. The CO was Maj DeHeaven; Sgt Nealson was the 1st Sgt. Write me, Clarence L. Hatfield, Cumberland Gap, Tenn. Claim pending.

MATS, Roberts Field, Liberia, West Africa—While at this field in July 1947 I suffered blackouts. In order to establish claim, I need to hear from Richard Shriner (Kansas City, Kans.); Capt Richard Chalmers (N. Y. State); and Kenneth Espling (Maine). Write me Johnny Strickland, Co. 18, VA Center, Kecoughtan, Va.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Send notices to: Outfit Reunions, *The American Legion Magazine*, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, New York.

Reunion will be held in month indicated. For particulars, write person whose address is given.

Army

99th Signal Bn, Co C—(Apr.) Charles L. Smith, 411 Clermont, Dallas 23, Tex.

131st Inf—(Dec.) Ernest C. Borchardt, 6036 Sheridan Road, Chicago, Ill.

Americal Div—(Jan.) Thomas McQuade, 30 Sunny Plain Ave., Weymouth, Mass.

Navy

Norfolk, Va., NTS, Platoon 423 (WW2)—(Jan.) Frank D. Woltz, 5 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, Fla.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SEPTEMBER 30, 1955

ASSETS

Cash on hand and on deposit . . .	\$ 428,702.02
Receivables	356,180.79
Inventories	398,535.46
Invested Funds	760,602.91
Permanent Trusts:	
Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund	\$ 257,373.35
Employees' Retirement Trust Fund	1,911,070.34
Real Estate	973,972.65
Furniture and Fixtures, less Depreciation	242,566.65
Deferred Charges	104,283.55
	<u>\$5,433,287.72</u>

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED REVENUE AND NET WORTH

Current Liabilities	\$ 415,915.19
Funds restricted as to use	48,271.39
Deferred Income	886,589.44
Permanent Trusts:	
Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund	\$ 257,373.35
Employees' Retirement Trust Fund	1,911,070.34
Net Worth:	
Restricted Capital:	
Reserve Fund	23,852.30
Restricted Fund	18,684.11
Reserve for construction Wash. Bldg.	27,545.04
Real Estate	973,972.65
Reserve for Rehabilitation	422,240.47
Reserve for Child Welfare	36,656.79
	<u>\$1,502,951.36</u>
Unrestricted Capital: Excess of Income over Expense	411,116.65
	<u>\$1,914,068.01</u>
	<u>\$5,433,287.72</u>

THE END OF ERNIE PYLE

(Continued from page 19)

Ernie seemed mildly interested. He took no notes.

Four or five enlisted men gathered nearby. They had learned who the little man was. When Coolidge left, they came up, grinning. Ernie grinned too, a pleased, friendly grin. It was like a friendly reunion. From his pocket Ernie pulled a scrap of paper and the stub of a pencil. I moved away. They'll make the next column, I thought. But they never did. The next column was never written.

The headquarters men returned to their tasks, and Ernie and I sat down

neath his picture were the words, "I WANT YOU." I turned away, then glanced back. The eyes were still on me. "Do something! Don't just stand there," they seemed to be saying.

The bomb disposal squad had been highly trained, but something had gone wrong, or someone had been careless. No one will ever know. The man who survived did not know. When he returned from the hospital he asked for other duty. Being a lone survivor, he said, gave him the creeps.

When the ambulances left I walked back to the OP. I was depressed and a little on edge.

"Where's Ernie?" I asked, not seeing him around.

Someone said, "Sir, he wanted to go and look at those Japanese caves."

"Alone?"

"Yes, sir."

"Good Lord! Now we'll lose him too. What did you let him go for? You know it's not healthy to poke around Japanese caves."

No one had an answer.

In a little while, Ernie came sauntering back, unharmed. I was so glad to see him, I did not mention the caves.

At that moment, Lieutenant Colonel Chalgren came up the hill. He commanded one of the 305th's frontline battalions. He had been shot in the right arm. A bloody bandage was around it. But there was a big grin on his face. He walked over to Ernie.

"I heard Ernie Pyle was here," Chalgren said, still grinning. "Before I go back to the aid station to get this thing dressed, I want to shake his hand."

Ernie's shy smile became a broad grin. "Thanks," he said. He took Chalgren's left hand and shook it carefully.

"Is it bad?"

"Naw, nothing much." They stood smiling at each other. Then Chalgren said, "Well, so long. It's been a pleasure. This has been a big day for me." He walked down the hill toward the regimental aid station.

"That's the second time he's been wounded," I said. "The other was on Guam or Leyte, I've forgotten which."

It was getting late. The 305th had almost reached the village but would make no more progress before dark. The houses and cellars and caves would be tough to clean out. That would take another day, maybe more.

I had no staff, except my aide, nor any command post either. But back down the road about 700 or 800 yards, I had seen a Japanese ammunition trench. It was about 40 feet long by 5 feet deep, and covered with logs. Earth was piled on the logs. The trench was

(Continued on page 46)



"He says he's an old friend of yours from New Guinea during the last war."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

again. We talked of Indiana and Africa, Manton Eddy and Patton and others we had both known.

Suddenly, a terrific explosion shook the hill. Where the bomb disposal squad had been was a cloud of smoke and dust, with debris rising above and falling back into it. When the smoke and dust drifted away, the road was empty. The truck was 50 yards away, a twisted, crumpled mass of steel.

Leaving Ernie, I ran down the hill, then walked rapidly to the scene of the explosion. There was a crater in the road. Six men were dead. One was still alive. Among the dead was one I shall never forget. He was big. The explosion had blown him against a bank. He was sitting there, leaning back, resting on one elbow as though his sergeant had said, "Take a break." His eyes were wide open, looking straight at me. Wherever I moved they seemed to follow. I recalled the old recruiting poster of Uncle Sam who pointed and looked. His eyes, too, followed you. Under-

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Hat & Coat Ensemble	79c	98c	\$1.10
Bridal Ensemble	98c	\$1.49	\$1.79
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Ballerina Outfit	49c	98c	\$1.10
Hostess Coat	29c	69c	79c
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A Statement By the Board of Directors of The Fund for the Republic, Inc.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Fund for the Republic has considered a statement issued in September by Seaborn P. Collins, the then National Commander of the American Legion, in which he criticized the aims and work of the Fund. The Board is concerned that the Commander of the Legion should have been misinformed, and should have misinformed others, about the purposes and program of the Fund.

Since its inception the Board has regarded the sphere of the Fund as including the entire field of freedom and civil rights and has taken as its basic charter the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. From the beginning the Board has held that the major factor affecting civil liberties today is the menace of communism and communist influence in this country. Coupled with this threat is the grave danger to civil liberties in methods that may be used to meet the threat. The Fund has financed research on a large scale into the extent and nature of the internal communist menace and its effect on our community and institutions. We hope to make a contribution to the better understanding of effective procedures for dealing with the communist menace while at the same time strengthening the American traditions of liberty and freedom.

The areas on which the Board has long since decided to concentrate its attention are:

1. Restrictions and assaults upon academic freedom.
2. Due process and equal protection of the laws.
3. The protection of the rights of minorities.
4. Censorship, boycotting, and blacklisting activities by private groups.
5. The principle of guilt by association and its application in the United States today.

The Board has steadily pursued the objects that it announced at the time of its organization. The Report of the Fund, which has been widely circulated since its publication in August, sets forth in detail the measures that have been taken by the Board to effect its stated purposes.

This Board reaffirms its faith in those purposes. It will continue to conduct the educational work in which it is engaged, on the lines that it has laid down.

The policies and program of the Fund for the Republic were adopted by this Board. The Officers of the Fund are executing those policies and that program under the direction of the Board.

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Copies of the recently issued Report of the Fund for the Republic may be obtained, without charge, by writing to:

THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC, INC. • 60 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S POSITION ON THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC

W E CALL YOUR particular attention to the advertisement on the opposite page. Placed by the Fund for the Republic, and signed by the Board of Directors of that organization, it purports to answer a statement made on September 12th by Seaborn P. Collins, then National Commander of The American Legion, which was highly critical of the Fund for the Republic and the use it was making of \$15,000,000 given to it by the Ford Foundation. The Commander's action was subsequently approved by the National Executive Committee and also endorsed by J. Addington Wagner, the new National Commander.

While this statement by Commander Collins was reported by the press, and the comments concerning it by officials of the Fund for the Republic were prominently featured, we feel it is in order to take this means to comment on the advertisement. The statement by Commander Collins did not appear in The American Legion Magazine and space does not permit us to present it in full. However, the following gives the general idea:

"Study of projects and activities financed by the Fund for the Republic has convinced me that Hutchins and his associates are trying to propagandize Americans into believing that:

"(1) communism never has been and is not now a serious danger to this country;

"(2) sinister forces under the pretext of fighting communism are the real danger, and threaten the civil liberties of all Americans;

"(3) security measures are un-American and are being used to harass and persecute innocent people.

"(4) intelligent and educated people are aware of these things, but are opposed by the ignorant who are being misled by evil demagogues."

In their statement the Directors of the Fund for the Republic express their concern over "the menace of communism and communist influence in this country." However, in discussing "the areas on which the Board has long since decided to concentrate its attention," there is no reference to communism and communist influence. Instead, using the overworked clichés of anti-anti-communists, they show the true interests of the Fund for the Republic.

Over the years The American Legion has learned something about the rights of minorities, due process of law, academic freedom, and other traditional American concepts. The American Legion has not just talked about these things and deplored abuses of them, it has fought for them. Because of this, we object strenuously when these things are exploited, as the communists exploit them, to camouflage subversive activities, and to persuade well-meaning people to support subversive causes. We believe the Fund for the Republic has been duped or misled into using civil rights and civil liberties as a false issue.

No less an authority than J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, expressed his concern over such

ILLINOIS CASE HISTORY

Soon after Commander Collins issued his statement the then Department Commander of Illinois, Irving Breakstone, informed the press that the Fund for the Republic was "... helping to finance activities of the Illinois Legion's Education for Freedom program." Breakstone then mentioned that the Fund for the Republic had allocated \$50,000 for this work, a figure that was promptly spread across the nation's headlines with at least the implication that The American Legion had received this money or had benefited financially in a substantial way from the Fund for the Republic.

Following is a letter clarifying this point from Patrick P. Petrone, 1954-55 Illinois Department Judge Advocate:

"I recently had a talk with Irving Breakstone about the Fund for the Republic—American Heritage Council—Department of Illinois' involvement that has been the subject of recent newspaper articles. It informs me that 'The Ford Foundation' gave millions of dollars for the 'Fund for the Republic' who in turn gave 'The American Heritage Council' \$50,000.00. The Department of Illinois has never received any money from any of these Funds and Councils nor have any of our commissions or committees.

"The 'American Heritage Council' provided some printed material of the constitution of the U.S., Declaration of Independence and other historical documents for distribution at 'The Education for Freedom' meetings. Some of the speakers who participated in these round table discussions sponsored by 'The Education for Freedom Committee' were Legionnaires who may have submitted expense vouchers to the American Heritage Council.

"So, in the final analysis The American Legion has received no moneys from either the 'Fund for the Republic' or the 'American Heritage Council.'"

Subsequently the Department of Illinois repudiated the action of Irving Breakstone, and further showed its displeasure by not electing him to head the Illinois delegation to the National Convention, an honor traditionally accorded outgoing Department Commanders.

actions when, on October 3rd, he declared:

"It is through the 'pseudoliberals' that the communists do some of their most destructive work. These fictitious liberals are the individuals who through insidiously slanted and sly propagandistic writing and reports oppose urgently needed internal-security measures, conduct a one-sided campaign to discredit Government witnesses, present the menace of communism as a myth of hysteria, urge that we tolerate the subversive acts of communists because communists are only 'nonconformists,' contend that the Communist Party is a 'political' movement and that it is improper to consider it a criminal conspiracy linked to a world conspiracy to overthrow our Government by force and violence."

The head of the Fund for the Republic, Robert Maynard Hutchins, is not likely to

agree with the head of the FBI, since his attitude seems evident in his statement: "Today we are cursed by a tremendous glorification of the FBI." However, most Americans are likely to conclude that Mr. Hoover is a sounder authority on communism than is Dr. Hutchins. When Robert Hutchins headed the University of Chicago, his faculty contained 135 professors with communist front records. On being asked by an investigator for the Illinois State Legislature if this was not cause for alarm he blandly replied: "I don't see why."

That was in 1949. Three years later he showed he had added nothing to his knowledge of the red conspiracy when he denounced the U. S. Supreme Court because it had upheld the Smith Act outlawing the Communist Party. And only a few weeks ago he scolded the press for its lack of concern over the plight of left-wingers.

This is the man with \$15,000,000 to spend on projects dealing with communism!

Little wonder that with this sort of direction the Fund for the Republic has been spending money prodigally on projects and individuals which have definite left-wing biases. To list all the left-wingers and pro-communists who have benefited from Dr. Hutchins' bounty is impossible here. A few examples are Helen Merrell Lynd, of Sarah Lawrence College; Earl Browder, former head of the Communist Party in this country; Walter Gellhorn, of Columbia; Theodore Draper, formerly of *The Daily Worker* and *New Masses*; Mary Knowles, the Fifth Amendment librarian from Plymouth Meeting, Pa., and Amos Landman, another of the Fifth Amendment folk.

As revealing as the people whose names have been associated with the Fund are the biased, left-wing books and pamphlets it buys and circulates, and the type of activity it stimulates through awards and special promotions. Typical of the literature it favors was an article that appeared in *Harper's Magazine* entitled "The Kept Witnesses," by one Richard H. Rovere. The Fund distributed 25,000 copies of this article, causing Assistant U. S. Attorney General William F. Tompkins to denounce the Fund and the author, for disseminating baseless and uninformed statements. Another notorious project was the Fund's allocation of money to make available films of the slanted Edward R. Murrow telecast glorifying J. Robert Oppenheimer. Dr. Oppenheimer was thereby portrayed to a vast audience of students as an exemplary character despite a record that has barred him from further contact with Atomic Energy Commission projects.

In a subsequent issue we will present further particulars concerning the activities of the Fund for the Republic. Meanwhile, the foregoing indicates why the National Commander warned Legionnaires to "avoid any identification with activities sponsored by the Fund for the Republic."

Incidentally, we are holding in escrow the money paid for the advertisement on the preceding page. There is a difference of legal opinion as to whether an eleemosynary organization may properly spend money in this way, and we are holding it till such time as this point is adjudicated.

(Continued from page 43)

in the area of the 305th reserve battalion. That was where I would spend the night, I decided.

A little before six, Ernie, Lieutenant Fowler, and I walked back to the trench. Others had the same idea, but we preempted three spaces at the south entrance. I had telephone communication with all three regiments and the artillery.

Fowler found a blanket for Ernie. We ate what we could from cans of tasteless C-ration, and when it got dark turned in. The rest of the trench filled up with enlisted men and a few officers. It was pretty crowded but we squeezed together, overlapping like sardines in a can.

Ernie said very little, and I am not a talkative person. He had something on his mind. He could have just as well gone back to his ship and slept between sheets and eaten a good hot dinner, I thought. But he seemed to want to be in the field with his beloved doughboys. I think he was glad when the enlisted men moved in around us. They were his kind of people. He loved them, and they returned his affection abundantly. He could get along with generals and colonels, but he was the soldiers' spokesman. He knew what they were up against, and never stopped telling the people at home.

I slept like a log that night. I guess Ernie did too. He told me in the morning he didn't hear any ruckus. But at daylight when we crawled out, there were dead Japs within 50 yards of our trench. During the night a party tried to infiltrate the reserve battalion. They had gotten themselves well shot up for

their pains. The battalion was proud of all the dead Japs lying about. Its commander took us on a personally conducted tour of the corpses. We had not heard a thing.

After breakfast, another can of cold C-ration, I left for the 307th CP, near the Red Beaches. Colonel Hamilton was away. One of his battalions was making a futile demonstration against the south end of Okinawa, and the Tenth Army had insisted he accompany it, though his regiment was engaged with the enemy on Ie Shima. That left Lieutenant Colonel Frank Miller in command of the 307th. He was a fine young officer, but inexperienced.

I wanted to talk with Miller, and check his arrangements for the attack, so Fowler and I, with my jeep driver, started out, forgetting all about Ernie.

To get to the 307th, it was necessary to go south about 500 yards, then turn east on a rough, narrow road which paralleled the beaches.

There were no indications of bypassed Japs along the route, and in a short time we arrived at the 307th CP. Miller had things well in hand, though I did not like the organization of his Command Post. It was located among the dunes, just above Red Beach.

Below, four LST's were unloading equipment. Opposite them was a small, rusty Japanese steam roller and a few sections of narrow gauge track.

"You know, Miller," I said, "the Japs had an important airfield here, but that pint-sized steam roller and those few sections of track are all the construction and maintenance equipment I've seen."

"They use mostly hand labor—the natives."

"Yes, but look at the stuff coming off those LST's."

They were spewing bulldozers, great power shovels, earthmovers, graders, and dump trucks, all for the aviation engineers. And the island not yet secure.

"Whatever made them think they could lick the United States?" I said. "Churchill was so right when he asked, 'What kind of people do they think we are?'"

"They're finding out," Miller grinned.

His field telephone rang. It was on the sand at his feet. He bent over, lifted the receiver, gave his code name, and listened.

"Yes, he's here. It's for you sir." He handed me the receiver.

I pushed back my helmet and put the receiver to my ear.

"Yes?" I said.

"General Randle?" an excited voice asked.

"Yes."

"Sir, Ernie Pyle's been killed."

"Say that again, slower." I had heard him, but I did not want to believe it. A mistake perhaps, but I knew better. They would not make a mistake like that when he was so near. I felt a numbing sense of loss. I always felt it when someone I knew was killed. But in this business you had to reject it, replace it with something else quickly.

"Yes, sir," the voice on the phone said. "Ernie Pyle has been killed by a sniper. He and Colonel Coolidge were on their way over to the 307th. About half way a Jap was hiding in the tall grass. He opened on them with a light machine-gun."

"Did he get Coolidge, too?"

"No, sir. The Colonel's all right. He's back here now. But Ernie's dead." There was a catch in the soldier's voice. "Shot right through the head, sir, helmet and all."

"Are they searching for the Jap?"

"Yes, sir. They've killed him."

I put down the receiver and turned to Miller.

"Ernie Pyle has been killed, on his way over here."

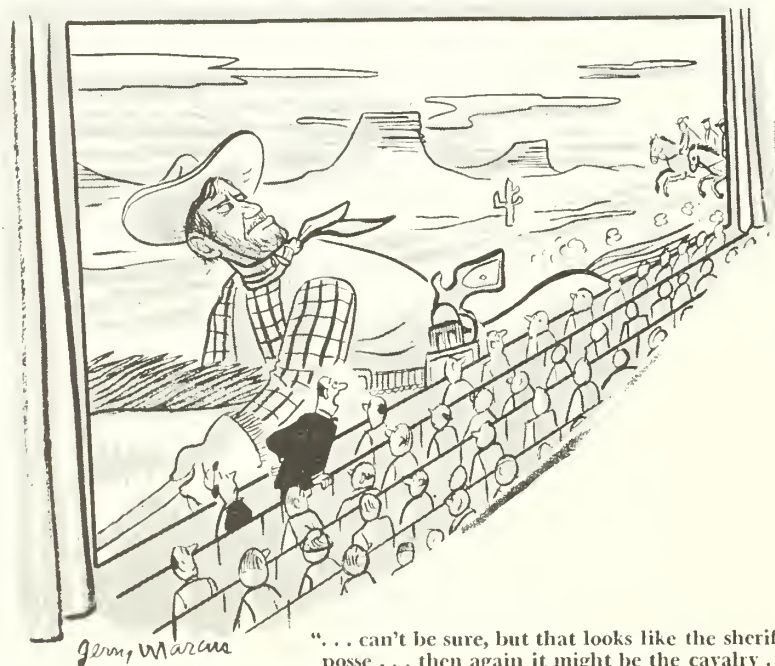
"Yes, sir. I guessed as much from your conversation."

"He and Coolidge were coming over the same route Fowler and I took not a half hour ago. Why do you suppose the s.o.b. let us go by, and opened on Coolidge and Ernie?"

"Maybe he wasn't ready, or something. We'll never know."

I started toward the jeep, then stopped. "You know, Frank, I never knew the guy until yesterday, but I've read lots of his stuff. I feel just like the men will, everywhere. The combat soldier has lost a damn good friend this day."

THE END



"... can't be sure, but that looks like the sheriff's posse ... then again it might be the cavalry ..."

PEACE AT ANY PRICE?

(Continued from page 15)

chief for peace, but this was not immediately apparent to all. Ten days after Munich, *The New York Times* reported the following item which, in the light of subsequent events, appears almost incredible: "Princeton University's 674 freshmen named Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Great Britain as 'the greatest living person' by a one-vote margin over Chancellor Adolf Hitler of Germany in a poll conducted by *The Daily Princetonian*, the results of which were announced today. Mr. Chamberlain was praised for averting war, and Chancellor Hitler for his political rather than military policies."

The umbrella man's "peace" was approved by a 366 to 144 confidence vote in Parliament.

The Secretary of State of the United States issued a statement in which he declared that Munich afforded "a universal sense of relief." Relief from what?

In New York City, Rabbi Joseph Zeitlin echoed the peace-at-any-price policy of Munich by declaring, "No matter how great the price we pay for peace may be, it is never too great." Other rabbis disputed this fantastic sentiment and castigated the Munich Pact as "peace without honor."

Litvinov Smiled in 1933

One of the historic tragedies resulting from a meeting-at-the-summit was the diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States, in November 1933.

To their everlasting credit, The American Legion and the American Federation of Labor opposed recognition of the Soviet government to the bitter end. Among the larger national organizations in this country, The American Legion and the A. F. L. stood alone in supporting the policy of non-recognition which had been adopted by the Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover Administrations.

The travesty of negotiating with totalitarians was reenacted in Washington, D. C., in November 1933, with Maxim Litvinov and Franklin D. Roosevelt as the principal summitteers.

As spokesman for the bloody regime of Moscow, Litvinov entered into a solemn "agreement" with tongue in cheek. The "agreement" was broken before the ink was dry and continuously thereafter down to the present day and hour.

On Litvinov's side, the "agreement" was a maneuver justified by the inverted ethics of the class struggle. It was conceived as a part of the continuing war of the communist slave-state against the capitalist world.

The Kremlin's conspiratorial apparatus on American soil did not suspend its operations for so much as a split second, despite Litvinov's pledge that it would do so.

At the White House, Litvinov smiled and shook hands with the President, and then hastened to join his communist comrades—benused and cynical—to report that he had promised everything asked.

Simpletons and subversives all over the United States—in government, press, radio, academic circles, and pulpits—emitted the familiar drivels of mushheads over the Kremlin's recognition coup.

Within less than a year (on August 14, 1934, at 3 p. m., to be exact), Secretary of State Cordell Hull dispatched a cablegram to U. S. Ambassador William Bullitt in Moscow, requesting the latter to enter strong protests with the Soviet Government over its violations of the Litvinov pledge. Hull cited chapter and verse. The violations were flagrant and concrete. After this one gesture of protest the State Department apparently lapsed into an indifferent acceptance of Moscow's truculent disregard of its solemn pledge.

Litvinov's pledge was given, like all Kremlin pledges, only to be broken. It has always been like that, and always will be as long as communism is communism. Bourgeois morality heads the list of those things for which communists have boundless contempt. "Our morality," said Lenin, "is entirely subordinated to the interests of the class struggle of the Proletariat." "From the point of view of Communist morality," said Stalin, "'moral' is only that which facilitates the destruction of the old world. . . ." The American Legion and the A. F. of L., at least, know that Bulgarian, Khrushchev, Molotov, and Zhukov are disciples of Lenin and Stalin.

The Boredom of Communist History

Normal children learn from a single experience not to touch a red-hot stove again. Not so the "liberal" clique, which rushes to welcome every new grin of the Kremlin leaders as a change of heart, only to find itself despondent in disillusionment when a new scowl wipes off the grin.

At international conferences the bourgeois participants study the faces of the Kremlin delegates when they should be boning up on basic communist strategy. Preoccupation with the alternating grins and scowls of the communist leaders serves only to confuse understanding.

Time and again, the failure to understand that the Kremlin's facial expres-

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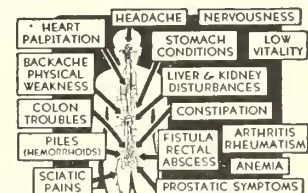
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sions are nothing but the muscular tricks of an unscrupulous international poker player has left self-styled liberals a sad but not wiser lot.

Much of history is repetitious, but the Kremlin has overdone it to the point of boredom.

On August 27, 1928, the Soviet Government adhered to the Pact of Paris, renouncing war as "an instrument of national policy"; and the eggheads said "See there!"

In 1933 the Soviet government proposed universal and total disarmament; and the soft-headed pacifists gurgled with delight, like an infant who had just finished his bottle.

In 1934 the Soviet Union joined the League of Nations; and there, cried the liberals, is solid evidence that the Kremlin is going to behave like a good boy in the family of nations.

In 1936 Stalin promulgated the New Soviet Constitution; and the unshakable believers were sure that the Soviet dictatorship was beginning to "wither away," according to one of the basic dogmas of Karl Marx.

In 1943 Stalin dissolved the Comintern; and the ever-trusting lambskins bleated happily over this new evidence that the international communist conspiracy had been junked.

Did Yalta Teach Nothing?

After Yalta, only diehard anticommunists refused to join the goose-stepping commentators and Congressmen in hailing that meeting-at-the-summit.

It is instructive to turn back to the newspapers of February 13 and 14, 1945, and read what was said about Yalta:

"Every American should be proud of the role played by the President," said the Honorable James F. Byrnes.

"Mark this day down as one of the great days of world history," declared the late U. S. Senator Elbert Thomas.

"The conference has laid the foundation of a just and durable peace," chimed in Bernard Baruch.

"It's the answer to a prayer," said Senator Warren Austin.

"The greatest step toward lasting peace that has ever been taken," said Senator Claude Pepper of Florida.

"The conference . . . sets the world on the road to a firm and democratic peace," observed labor boss Michael Quill.

"The results of the conference are better than the most optimistic expectations," commented Helen Gahagan Douglas.

"This conference marks a milestone on the road to . . . peace," said *The New York Times* editorially.

And, of course, the *Daily Worker* was exultant.

In summit meetings with the bolshevik hierarchy the risk of losing per-

spective is a clear and present danger.

How Czechoslovakia Was Conquered

The conquest of Czechoslovakia, which reduced the government of that country to the status of a Soviet vassal, began with a meeting-at-the-summit.

In 1943 Eduard Benes, head of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, flew to Moscow, where a Czechoslovak-Soviet treaty of "friendship, mutual assistance, and postwar cooperation" was concluded and signed.

Within five years of the signing of this treaty of "friendship," the communists had wiped out all traces of Czechoslovak liberty. On February 25, 1948, Benes yielded to a communist ultimatum to install a pro-Soviet cabinet. On June 7 he resigned as president of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, and a nation of 12 million people, once jealous of its freedom but trustful of its Soviet neighbor, was swallowed up in the vast slave-world of communism. Soviet perfidy was never more crimson with the blood of a proud and free people.

William F. Russell, former dean of Teachers College, Columbia University, recalls a conversation with Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak foreign minister, just after World War II, in which the noted Czech statesman expressed the belief that Czech liberty was not in any danger of extinction at the hands of Moscow. Some 24 months later, on March 10, 1948, the broken body of Jan Masaryk was found on the pavement of the courtyard of the foreign ministry in Prague. On September 3 of the same year President Benes died under mysterious circumstances.

It was all the logical end of a "treaty of friendship" with the red-handed despot of the Kremlin.

Gadabouts Unlimited!

It has been proposed that travel restrictions be relaxed to encourage the exchange of tourists between the West and the Soviet Union. Presumably, the authors of the proposal have in mind reciprocal invasions running into the hundreds of thousands.

Apart from the boon which this travel boom would bring the American Express Co., Thos. Cook & Son, Intourist, and the rest of the tourist bureaus, the idea has great merit—but only on one condition! Let each American gadabout who goes to Russia do a six-month stretch as an inmate in a Soviet slave-labor camp. This firsthand experience would add greatly to his understanding of Sovietism—if he survived. Those who came back would constitute a corps of educators, the like of which we have never had.

The idea would be especially meritorious if the American contingent of tourist invaders of the Soviet Union

were composed principally of opinion-makers: newspapermen, radio commentators, clubwomen, professors, and clergymen.

The cynic, with an intellectual rhinoceros hide to protect him against the slings and arrows of sentimentality, may say: "Now that we got Sir Anthony safely through the British elections, let's drop the make-believe that a concordat between freedom and thralldom is possible."

This whole exchange-of-tourists idea is the sheerest sentimentality, cut loose from earthbound reality. Did anyone propose that the exchange of a million tourists between the United States and

WALLY



(From May, 1939 A.L.M.)

Nazi Germany would have resulted in a mutual-admiration rapprochement that would have helped to prevent World War II?

Fortunately, there are still some hard-headed realists loose. George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor, knows how to handle a monkey wrench (he's a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union) and he threw one into this tourist method of knitting peace.

Speaking for himself, Meany said that it was a mistake for members of Congress, farmers, and other groups to visit the Soviet Union. "It's giving the Russians respectability and helping their propaganda, which is to lull the world to sleep until they get another opportunity to try to dominate the world," said the A. F. of L. president. Where the subject of communism is concerned, certain Congressmen and churchmen could well afford to sit at this plumber's feet.

The executive council of the A. F. of L. spoke out sharply against this exchange-of-tourists phantasy, in the following words: "The Communists in the

United States have begun a drive for authoritative American trade-union delegations' visiting Russia. . . . The executive council of the A. F. of L. vigorously rejects all such invitations."

Any Russian who returned from a visit in the United States to confess that he had been charmed by the freedoms of the capitalist system would be speedily liquidated.

There was once a Vice President of the United States who traveled extensively in the Soviet Union, who visited a slave-labor camp without even vaguely guessing what it was, and who came home to extol what he termed "Soviet-guided democracy." Mr. Wallace, of course!

Communists Capitalize

The communists in the United States were quick to make valuable propaganda capital out of the so-called "spirit of Geneva."

It was inevitable that the communists and their fellow travelers sooner or later would raise the question of the discrepancy between the apparently conciliatory meeting-at-the-summit, on the one hand, and the prosecution of communists under the Smith Act, on the other. They have a certain logic on their side.

If, as many American juries have found, the Smith Act defendants are clearly guilty of conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the United States Government by force and violence, it is equally clear that these defendants are the underlings of a communist conspiracy which is directed by their superiors in the Soviet Union.

If the leaders of the Communist Party in the United States are conspiratorial underlings, their currently functioning principals are Bulganin, Khrushchev, Molotov, Zhukov, *et al.* If things are hunky-dory between the Big Four chiefs of state, as those who prattle about the "spirit of Geneva" seem to believe, it is hardly logical to continue the prosecution of the American subordinates of our newly found Muscovite friends.

On August 8, 1955, *The New York Times* and the *Daily Worker* simultaneously printed a news story about a letter addressed to the President of the United States, urging him and the Attorney General to "take a second look at the whole question of Smith Act trials in view of the easing of tensions." The letter was allegedly signed by 73 "American intellectuals consisting," as the *Times* declared, "mainly of university scholars and clergymen." In both newspapers, however, only 71 names were listed as signers of the letter.

In its story, the *Times* inserted the following editorial observation: "Most of the signers have not appeared in the

news at all in connection with their political affiliations and attitudes." This was sheer journalistic balderdash in the best *Times* tradition. Quick research showed that the *Times*' own news columns contained the evidence to refute its gratuitous fiction palmed off as news. The pro-communist affiliations and attitudes of at least 39 of the 71 signers have been spread upon the public record in the pages of *The New York Times* alone. Other news sources, added to that of the *Times*, show that at least 61 of the 71 signers of the letter have been affiliated with communist enterprises in the past.

The demand of the communists that the Eisenhower Administration "take a second look at the Smith Act prosecutions," in the so-called "spirit of Geneva," is only one instance out of hundreds which point up the propaganda advantage which the communist conspiracy has scored.

A communist outfit which called itself the Committee to End the Black List issued a press release, declaring: "Times are changing. President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin talk at Geneva. . . ." It follows, argued this committee of concealed communists, that the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities is out of step with the times in continuing its investigations of communist infiltration.

The law requiring fingerprints of applicants for American visas has come under heavy propaganda fire as a direct result of the Geneva talks. At the summit meeting, Zhukov explained to the President that alien communists who wished to travel in the United States would have their feelings hurt if they had to be fingerprinted in order to get an entrance visa.

An all-out propaganda drive has been launched for the relaxation of trade restrictions to enable the Khrushchev-Bulganin regime to bolster an insecure socialist economy. The objective of this drive is better preparation for war, not peace. Joseph Stalin said that his country was "the base of the world revolution," and the present dictators in the Kremlin have done nothing which indicates an abandonment of that view. It could turn out that the chief result of the Geneva talks will be trade agreements which have the effect of strengthening "the base of the world revolution."

Finally, it should be pointed out that the so-called "spirit of Geneva," in the hands of the communists and the anti-anticommunists, has become the most useful cudgel they ever possessed for beating the brains out of anticommunists. At no other time during the past 38 years has opposition to the communist conspiracy been more hazardous than the present.

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The Kremlin Really Wants Peace

Of the Kremlin's desire for peace, there can be no doubt. Why not?

As long as conquest by infiltration is so successful, and as long as it can be carried out under the bourgeois concept of peace, there is no reason for the Russian megalomaniacs to swap their peaceful Trojan horses for the more risky Martian steeds in the middle of a stream of successful territorial acquisitions.

In ten years of so-called peace, the

conquests of the Soviet Empire have greatly exceeded those of any other empire in history—and all without the sacrifice of a single one of its own infantrymen. As long as this peace is so productive of results, it is unthinkable that the masterminds of Moscow will switch to the instrument of war.

The strategy of the Kremlin, plainly apparent after 38 years, is one of alternating periods of tension and relaxation, a strategy in which the Kremlin always retains the initiative.

At least three good reasons have prompted the Soviet leaders to switch from their deliberately created international tension to a fake relaxation: (1) a pause to catch their imperialistic breath and to consolidate their colonial gains; (2) gaining time to repair the buckling in their socialist structure; and (3) a maneuver to keep the bourgeoisie confused about its defenses.

No matter how you slice it, the Soviet pretensions of peace are a lot of baloney. THE END

OLDTIME GUNMEN vs. MODERN MARKSMEN

(Continued from page 21)

of the envelope in the center."

Mr. Roth went on with his questioning, discovered that the envelope was five inches square, was fired at from a distance of no more than ten yards. Roth was amazed that the old gunmen considered that a feat of good shooting. Luther North explained that it was good shooting with the cap-and-ball guns they had, and went on to report this dialogue between Wild Bill Hickok and his brother, Frank North.

"Frank," said Wild Bill, "you can sure beat me when it comes to shootin' at those little black dots, but I can beat you when it comes to hitting men."

In this one sentence lies the answer to the great myth. The old gunmen couldn't hold a candle to our modern marksmen armed with today's improved weapons, powder, shells, and sighting devices, but they had a quality that has kept them on the top list of gunmen over the years—nerve. They understood the psychology of killing as it was related to shooting in order to stay alive—something today's shooter rarely has to contend with. But only a handful of them were accurate shots

at more than a few yards. Distance, plus the inadequacy of their weapons defeated them.

Not too long ago, Charles Askins, Jr., a modern marksman who holds several pistol championships, set out to prove that Wild Bill, supposed to be the best of the old gunslingers, wasn't so hot. He duplicated the signboard target as it was reported by Wyatt Earp. (Incidentally, Earp, who was there, said that Wild Bill didn't fire both guns at once, but used them singly and point-fired carefully. He was uncertain as to the exact distance.) Askins, using two guns of Hickok vintage, threw groups 7.3 to 8.7 inches trying to hit the signboard letter O at 50 yards, proving to his expert satisfaction and that of witnesses that that particular shooting feat just couldn't be done with the weapons that Hickok had to use. It seems that somebody was stretching the truth—had yanked it way out of shape.

Wyatt Earp, who is marked by many as the greatest among the old gunthrowers, had little regard for the so-called shooting two-gun man, gun-fanner, and the fancy shot. Earp spent two

years talking with his biographer, Stuart N. Lake, about the old days. He said:

"The most important lesson I learned from the proficient gunfighters whom I knew, was that the winner of a gunplay usually was the man who took his time. From my personal experience and from numerous six-gun battles which I witnessed, I can only support the opinion advanced by men who gave me my most valuable instruction in fast and accurate shooting, which was that the gun-fanner and hip shooter stood small chance to live against a man who took his time and deliberately pulled the trigger once.

"It is true that with plenty of practice a skillful gun-fanner could fire five shots from a .45 so rapidly that the individual reports were indistinguishable, but what could happen to him in a gunfight was pretty close to murder.

"That two-gun business is another matter than can stand some truth. The old gunfighters wore two guns, most of the six-gun toters did, and when the time came for action they went after them with both hands. But they didn't shoot them that way.

"Primarily, two guns made the threat of something in reserve; they were useful as a display of force when a lone man stacked up against a crowd. Some men could shoot equally well with either hand, and in a gunplay might alternate their fire; others exhausted the loads from the gun in the right hand, or left, as the case might be, then shifted the reserve weapon to the natural shooting hand. Such a move—the border-shift—could be made faster than the eye could follow a topnotch gun-thrower, but if the man was as good as that, the shift seldom would be required.

"Whenever you see a picture of some two-gun man in action with both weapons held closely against his hips and both spitting smoke together, you can put it down that you are looking at the picture of a fool or a fake."

The notches of 22 kills on the butt of Bat Masterson's favorite six-gun were explained by Wyatt Earp as just another bit of fiction, although it had a little push from Masterson himself. It



"I just know I have some money here somewhere."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

seems a rapacious collector of souvenirs had been pestering him for months for a six-gun, and then Bat thought of a way to get rid of him. He bought an old .45 at a pawnshop, decided he might as well make it a dramatic gift, and cut 22 credits on the butt of the gun. The collector gasped when he saw it, asked Masterson if it meant that he had killed that many men. Bat never replied; thus the legend of "killer" Masterson's notched gun was born.

Earp felt that most of the foolish tales about the western gunmen, such as the one about John Wesley Hardin fanning two guns at once—a physical impossibility, because it takes both hands to fan a gun—are the fault of E. Z. C. Judson, who wrote fantastic and flaming tales under the pen name of Ned Buntline for his effete readers east of the Mississippi River. Firing with deadly accuracy with both hands from a wildly galloping horse, fanning a gun and wiping out a roomful of badmen, picking off riflemen at 500 yards with a .45 were some of the calmer distortions Buntline foisted upon his gullible readers.

And the boys are at it today. Wild Bill, twin six-guns smoking, still rides across our television screens, followed by the two-gun Cisco Kid, Hopalong Cassidy, and a legion of other sadly misused gunmen. But if our modern Buntlines of TV and Hollywood would face it, we have today far faster and more accurate gunmen and marksmen than ever existed in the old West.

What a script the story of Torsten Ullman would make. On his way to the 36th World Shooting Championships held in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1954, Ullman, a Swede, found that he did not have his favorite Smith and Wesson revolver with him. With the help of Carl R. Hellstrom, president of Smith and Wesson, he was able to pick up a K-38 Masterpiece at a quick stopover in New York City. With this new weapon that he had never before held in his hand, he stepped in and made a new center-fire world record score of 586 out of a possible 600. With all the best shots of the world watching and competing, in one stage he shot 297 out of 300 in slow fire at 25 meters. Out of 30 shots he scored only one nine and one eight! This is the toughest kind of hour-after-hour pressure shooting that eliminates all but the real gun geniuses.

And the former champion he outshot at that meet is something of a legend himself. He is Harry Reeves, an inspector in the Detroit police force, who has held the national pistol championship 4 times, plus two of the three possible National Match course records. His record with the .22 is 296 out of a possible 300 points; with the .45, 295 out of 300. These pistol courses con-

sist of ten shots slow fire, one minute per shot at 50 yards; ten shots timed fire, each five-shot string in 20 seconds at 25 yards; ten shots rapid fire, a five-shot string in ten seconds also at 25 yards. The target is the standard type originally designed for rifle shooting at 200 yards, and has a ten-ring 3.39 inches in diameter, a nine-ring 5.54 inches in diameter, an eight-ring 8 inches, seven-ring 11 inches. It has a six and a five-ring too, but the experts don't bother with these. The targets used at 50 and 25 yards are alike except that the 50-yard job has eight, nine, and ten-rings in the black, the 25-yard has just the nine and ten in black.

The national pistol championship goes to the best aggregate score made in a series of matches, including those over the National Match course with three guns—the .22, .38, and .45. The total score includes separate matches for each of the three guns. Competitors, in effect, fire the National Match course of 30 shots three times with each of the three guns, totaling 270 shots. This is the most demanding and rugged test ever designed to grade shooting skill and nerve. Reeves doesn't even change the revolver sights when going from one distance target to another. He's one of our finest examples of cold-nerved shooting men, and his dexterity would make the old frontier fighters bug-eyed.

Another modern Dead-Eye Dick is J. E. Clark. In one tournament he fired an S&W .45 revolver in both the center fire and .45 matches. Out of a total of 180 shots with a possible point value of 1,800 he scored 1,745. Sixty shots (i.e. six strings of ten shots, each string of which had a point value of 100) were fired at 50 yards; Clark's average score was 94.83. The remainder were fired at 25 yards in timed and rapid fire strings; Clark's average score was 98.33.

Maybe so, defenders of the old gun-throwers will argue, but shooting at a piece of paper and a man are a couple of different things. How would these men stand up in the dramatic "shoot first or die" kind of triggering the Hickoks and the Earps walked out of?

We have top gunfighters, too, men who would make the best of the old-timers change their trade. Even expert pistolman, Elmer Keith, long an articulate spokesman for and writer of the glory of the old western gunfighter, has this to say:

"When it comes to fine target shooting, our shots today would have taken all of the old gun-throwers badly. The F.B.I. and the Border Patrol are also better equipped and are our greatest outfits of trained gunfighters."

One of the best of our modern gunfighters is Marine Colonel Walter Walsh who used to throw a gun for the F.B.I. It is said that he has traded lead

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in 20 gun fights with wanted criminals and accounted for 11 men. Timed with a stopwatch, firing at a target 20 feet away from him, he got off five shots, all in kill spots on the target, in less than one second. Faster and more accurate than any of the oldtimers, he is known as the finest all-round shot in the country with revolver, rifle, submachine gun, and shotgun. His feat of killing—with a .45—a Jap who stuck his head out of a cave 100 yards away has been documented. Walsh was with the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific when he did this.

And we have another gunman, still alive and kicking, who is even faster than Walsh. Ed McGivern, our foremost exponent of the handgun, has taught many of our top police and law enforcement officers lifesaving methods in "triggernometry." He has proved that the double-action revolver in his hands is capable of point shooting a playing card at 20 feet, all shots on target, fired in less than a second. He can also do this from the hip, and with two guns. He can draw and fire two guns simultaneously, five shots out of each gun, all shots scoring vital hits on a man-target at 20 feet—in less than two seconds. Never in the history of gun handling has anyone authentically matched him for speed and accuracy. McGivern works with witnesses and special electrical timing devices so that his speed and skill can be clearly documented matters of record.

The impressive facet of McGivern's shooting is that he is teaching and has taught literally hundreds of men to handle guns with almost the same speed and dexterity.

We have trick shots today like the Linds, Bill Adkins, Ken Beegle, Bill Johnson, who can peel an orange with

a big game rifle, shoot the centers out of tossed nickles with .22 rifles, hit a 50-yard target dead center with a bucket over their heads, throw a shotgun and clay target in the air simultaneously and catch the gun in time to bust the target mid-air, draw any picture the crowd demands on a target with .22 bullets, split a playing card at 60 feet with one shot from a .22.

And one of our modern shots, Adolph Toepperwein, broke the fabulous Doc Carver's record of shooting 60,000 out of 60,650 glass balls tossed in the air using a small caliber rifle. Toepperwein used automatic .22 rifles and wooden blocks, and hit 72,491 out of 72,500 airborne targets, establishing the alltime world's record.

In fairness it must pointed out that our weapons with their miraculously smooth actions, improved sighting devices, and smokeless powder have done much for today's shooter. Last year, for example, my wife, shooting a Winchester Model 70 Hornet with open sights, killed ten woodchucks with ten shots at a paced 250 yards—all head shots. This wasn't accidental. She's a good shot, but she had firepower behind her, something Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone didn't have.

A few years ago Herb Glass, an expert shot, a dealer in and lover of old guns, and another experienced pistol shot who liked our modern weapons, got together to run some simple tests to determine the difference in accuracy and velocity between the old guns and the new. Glass used the Colt cap-and-ball revolvers popular during and after 1850, and the other shooter fired a Smith and Wesson Model K-38 revolver. Using bench rests and a five-inch black bull placed 20 yards away, Glass started the test with a Colt percussion,

rifled revolver which fired the conical ball. It was a .36 caliber, Navy, Model 1851, and used 15 grains of powder. It made a ten-shot group of 5.4 inches. Next he used the Colt Dragoon, a big gun weighing four pounds. A favorite of the oldtimers, it shot a .45 caliber bullet weighing 212 grains and 35 grains of black powder. The ten-shot group from the old powerhouse measured more than six inches.

Then the man with the modern Smith and Wesson stepped up. He didn't use a bench rest, and he fired two strings of five shots as fast as he could fire and get the revolver back on the target. One shot got away, but the other nine were in a group less than three inches in diameter. It was a conclusive test that left little room for argument.

During World War II, our GI's proved that the average American, unaccustomed to guns and killing, given the proper training and incentive, can perform feats of marksmanship that would even make old Ned Buntline shake his head in disbelief.

Off Guadalcanal, just after it had been captured from the Japs, a vessel with American reinforcements was nearing shore when a twin-motored Jap torpedo plane leveled off and started for the American ship. When the plane got within 600 feet of the boat, Major Frank Lahey, of South Bend, Indiana, lifted his .30-06 Springfield, and pumped two shots at its pilot. Within 100 feet of the transport, the plane suddenly crashed and sank.

Marine Sergeant John J. Zajac, from Bay City, Michigan, calmly picked off six rapidly moving Jap soldiers at 400 yards—with five bullets! One shot killed two of the enemy.

On the Italian front, Corporal James E. Meskill, of Brantwood, Wisconsin, killed three Germans with three shots at just under 1,000 yards.

Technical Sergeant Ole M. Martinson, of Squaw Lake, Minnesota, got the Silver Star when, as an acting platoon leader in Italy, he bagged 15 nazis at 200 yards with a rifle. He shot 15 times.

Colonel William J. Whaling, one of America's leading competitive shooters before World War II, was crouched in the bow of a landing craft with one of the first waves of Edson's Raiders, on the lookout for Japs on the Guadalcanal shore. At 88 yards off shore, he spotted a Jap running along the shoreline. Steadying himself as best he could on the wave-beaten small craft, Whaling took careful aim and fired. The Jap dropped.

It is almost certain that Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, Does Carver and Holliday, and even Billy the Kid would demand witnesses for shooting stories like these.

We've got them.

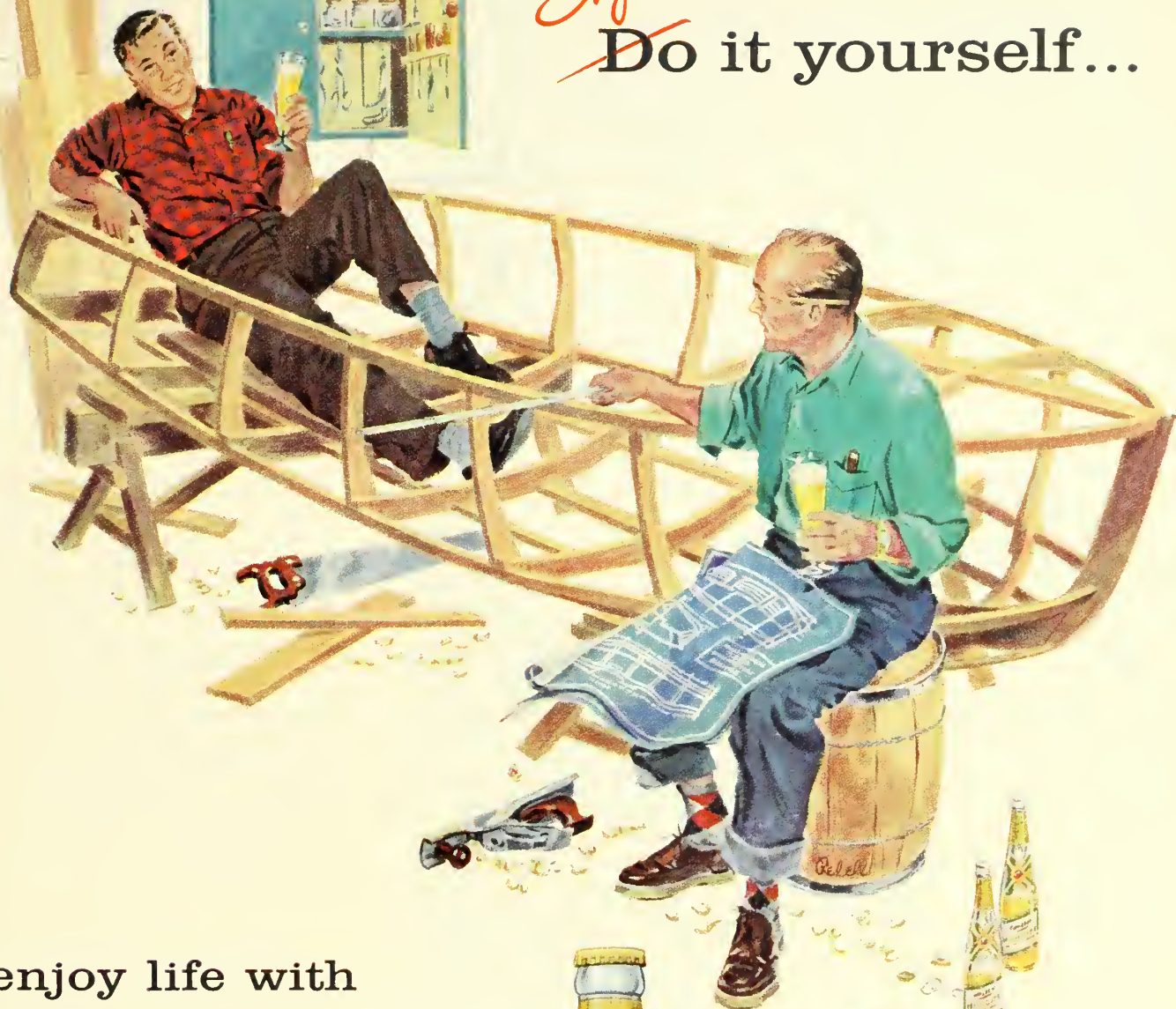
THE END



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ROD AND GUN CLUB

(Continued from page 28)

FINALLY THE BOOK thousands of field dog devotees have been waiting for has been published. Called *National Field Trial Champions*, it is written by two of the country's top gun dog experts, William F. Brown, editor of *The American Field*, and Nash Buckingham. Henry P. Davis, well-known field dog judge pens a glowing foreword. Full of interesting color and black-and-white photographs, the book is the only authentic and detailed history of the National Field Trial Championship Association since its inception in 1896. It is jammed with stirring stories of great dogs and their feats in the field. It's worth double the price of \$12.50 which its publisher, The Stackpole Publishing Company of Harrisburg, Pa., has put on it. It has been a long time in the making. But this is the kind of book that makes the waiting worthwhile.

OUTDOORSMEN WILL get a kick out of L. L. Bean's catalog which illustrates and describes all the equipment and duffel that a hunter or fisherman needs. L. L. Bean is especially good on boots and camping gear. Write to them at Freeport, Maine, for your free copy of their catalog.



THE ART OF taking big fish on light gear has been accelerated by spinning tackle. That slipping clutch, while not a new idea, is brought to perfection in good spinning reels. Charles Garcia & Company, Inc., are importers of the famous Mitchell line of spinning reels, made in France, which includes the Mitchell CAP at \$14.95,

the fresh water Mitchell at \$29.75 and the Mitchell salt water reel at \$37.50. All are good fishing tools. Dick Wolff, their fishing expert, will answer any questions you ask him about spin fishing in either fresh or salt water. Their catalog with prices is free to inquirers, and Dick also offers the 48-page, illustrated booklet on salt-water Mitchell spinning reels in lots of 100 to Legion Posts or Legion sportsmen groups. Covers such subjects as putting monofilament line on the spool; how to keep your reel in top shape; how to spin-east and retrieve; salt water spinning, California style; and spinning from docks and bridges. Lots of valuable tips for either fresh or salt water spin fishermen. Write to Dick Wolff at 268 4th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

If you have a helpful idea that pertains to hunting or fishing, send it along. If we can use it, we'll reward you with a hunting or fishing accessory. Address: **OUTDOOR EDITOR**, Rod and Gun Club, *The American Legion Magazine*, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, New York.



(Continued from page 4)

conference of the Big Four at Geneva. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, of the United Nations, arranged for the release of our 11 airmen, falsely imprisoned in communistic China. Krishna Menon, India's roving and purring Ambassador, is arranging for the interrogation of the Nationalist Chinese students now in our country in regard to sending them to communistic China. The United Nations arranged for American soldiers to protect communists on their so-called inspection teams now in South Korea. And that's only a part of it. Mr. Average American and his good friend, not General Zhukov, but Willie Taxpayer, are convinced that too much of this arranging is apt to cause them to become slightly disarranged. Or even deranged!

E. P. Turner
Washington, D. C.

WHO'S FIRST?

Sir: I have just read the article "They Put Wheels Under Everything," by Lawrence M. Hughes, in your September issue. If I interpret the piece correctly, Mr. Hughes claims that August Fruehauf built the first auto trailer for F. M. Sibley in 1915. This was quite interesting to me in view of the fact that as foreman for Mackemer and Pinkerton, Ford dealers in Peoria, Ill., I personally designed and helped build an auto trailer in 1912 or 1913. At least six of us who worked on the contraption are still around and able to verify the date. The trailer was used

to haul men, tools, oil and gas. I doubt that August Fruehauf knew of our trailer when he built his in 1915, and probably there were even earlier ones.

Merle B. Barton
Seattle, Wash.

WRITING INSTRUCTIONS

Sir: Thank you for printing "What You Should Know About Red China." Our American Government has always opposed Red China's admittance into the United Nations, but there are some, who are very vocal, who are working hard to encourage the Government to change its stand. If all who are opposed to Red China's entrance into the U.N. would just take a moment to write to the United States Delegation, United Nations, 2 Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y., it might have a very positive effect. From the State Dept. Bulletin *Your Opinion Counts*, I quote, "... if the majority of American organizations expressed strong disapproval of a proposed policy, it would be folly for the Government to attempt to ignore this opposition."

Patricia Adams
Morgan City, La.

LIKED HOT FISH

Sir: May I express my thanks for your publication of the article "Hot Fish in Tube 4." Many veterans seem to have taken to writing merely to glorify themselves, and are completely without talent. Commander Ruhe, however, is a writer.

Eleanor M. Smith
Arlington, Va.

CREDIT MOUNT MORRIS

Sir: Have just received my *American Legion Magazine* for October. In looking through it, I immediately became very interested in "How the Pledge of Allegiance Came To Be

Written." This article by Harold Helfer, telling the absorbing saga of Margarette S. Miller, was one of the finest I have yet seen in our magazine, but after reading it through to the end, I felt disappointed. Why? Well here's why: Mr. Helfer had failed to mention the birthplace of the accepted writer of the Pledge—Francis Bellamy. I, the same as those who are living here, are very proud of the fact that Francis Bellamy was born in our home town, Mount Morris, N. Y. We have a playground and a park named in his honor and best of all, the home in which he was born, 100 years ago, is in a fine state of preservation and at the present time lived in by its owner, a village attorney.

Earl C. Bell
Mt. Morris, N. Y.

A HARRIMAN VETO

Sir: It was Benjamin Harrison who said: "Let the national flag float over every schoolhouse in the country, and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship." Today, in 1955, it is Governor Harriman, who, upon vetoing the bill for a daily flag salute and pledge in New York State Schools, said: "... there is the danger of the pledge and salute becoming so habitual that it will lose the dignity and patriotic fervor which it is intended to engender." The New York State Education Department and the State School Boards Association, Inc., had opposed the bill on the same ground. It was sponsored by two Queens Democrats, Senator O'Connor and Assemblyman Giaccio.

Mrs. J. Capuano
Greenport, L. I., N. Y.

Letters published in *Sound Off!* do not necessarily represent the policy of *The American Legion*. Name withheld if requested. Keep your letters short. Address: *Sound Off!*, The American Legion Magazine, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, N. Y.

MR. SEARS' AMAZING BOOK

(Continued from page 25)

supplies. "The day we run out of cement," Goethals told him, "you're fired." Among other things, Wood learned about merchandising. The commissaries he managed were a chain of small department stores.

In World War I he served in France with the Rainbow Division under General Douglas MacArthur. Ordered back to Washington as acting Quartermaster General, Wood became widely known for his job of reorganizing Army procurement.

After the war he went to Chicago as a vice president of Montgomery Ward & Company (Sears' biggest rival). During the twenties he persuaded Ward's management to get rid of a heavy inventory of mail-order tires by opening retail automotive stores. But when Ward's leaders came to regard these stores as "funnels through which to drop the lemons from the mail-order inventory," Wood and Ward parted company.

In 1924 Julius Rosenwald of Sears, Roebuck hired General Wood as a vice president, and five years later Wood succeeded Rosenwald as president. Wood's three decades saw the business multiply nearly 15 times. Theodore V. Houser, who followed him from Ward, is now chairman, and Fowler B. McConnell is president of the company.

Believing that the automobile and paved highways might slow mail-order growth, Wood started Sears in retail stores. In the U.S.A. today Sears has 700 stores. In Latin America Sears stores now do a \$70-million annual business. Simpson-Sears Limited (jointly owned by Sears and Simpsons Limited of Montreal) does about \$120 million. This Canadian business has been predominantly mail-order. But in the last two years the Simpsons-Sears retail chain has expanded from two to 14 stores.

Wood also put Sears into the insurance business. The \$5 million which Sears invested in Allstate insurance in 1931 is now estimated to have grown to more than \$100 million. In addition to what it sells through its own offices Allstate sells automobile, fire, and general liability insurance through Sears and Simpson-Sears stores and through the catalog.

Today the stockholders of Sears, Roebuck and Co. (the largest group of whom are employees) own a flourishing international operation, with a working capital of about \$860 million, net worth of more than \$1.1 billion, and annual earnings, after taxes, of \$140 million.

In mail-order alone Sears now does as much business as the next three competitors (Ward, Spiegel, and Aldens) combined.

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like GORDON'S*

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE • DECEMBER 1955 • 55

It all started with watches. Dick Sears, a 23-year-old station agent for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad at North Redwood, Minn., held an unordered shipment of c.o.d. watches which a local jeweler refused to accept. Instead of sending them back, Sears made a deal with the wholesaler. He saturated North Redwood with cut-rate watches, sold watches to incoming train crews, swapped them with Indians for venison. Then he invited every station agent on the M. & St. L. to sell watches in their areas for a \$2 commission, or half of what Sears himself got from the wholesaler.

Sears soon learned that the larger his orders, the better his price per watch. As he passed the savings on to buyers, he widened his market. He quit the railroad job; opened the R. W. Sears Watch Co. in Minneapolis; and then moved to Chicago, where he issued a 50-page catalog of "fully guaranteed" watches.

But a lot of his merchandise didn't keep time. Instead of sending refunds or replacements, he decided to repair the timepieces. Among watchmaker applicants who replied to his want ad was a handy, steady, quiet young man from Tippecanoe County, Indiana. His name was Alvah Curtis Roebuck. Roebuck was put in charge of repairs, and soon was given a one-third interest in the business.

Sears has been called "restless, rootless, a high-octane personality." He was such a supersalesman that he could "sell a breath of air." Into the catalog he put patent medicines, clothing, buggies, furniture, sporting goods, hardware, and other things. Once he offered a "bed-room suite" for \$4. Some of the customers who deluged the company with orders were not pleased to receive little sets of doll furniture. Another time he advertised a \$5 artificial eye for horses, which proved popular with traders trying to unload blind nags. A favorite item with the swagger set was a solid-gold combined toothpick and ear spoon.

"Dr. Pasteur's Death to Microbes" (80 cents) was "absolutely guaranteed" to cure tuberculosis, rheumatism, shingles, hives, malaria, blood poisoning, and catarrh. Sears could overcome such habits as liquor, tobacco, opium, and morphine.

(In response to public demand the catalog has carried such later nostrums as Hadacol. But Sears, Roebuck today is prouder to have become the largest, and perhaps the lowest priced, distributor of hospital beds, wheel chairs, crutches, hearing aids, and similar equipment.)

Dick Sears was not "efficient." Increasing sales intensified chaos. Orders were lost, wrongly directed or filled, and even ignored. Once, exasperated, he

threw out a whole bundle of orders.

He even advertised items not in inventory. Intrigued by a Chicago department store ad of a man's "swagger suit," he got up a special circular on it. Return mail brought 5,000 orders. Sears and Roebuck combed Chicago's clothing district for a manufacturer. Finally they found the small but thriving plant of one Julius Rosenwald. He filled the order promptly, and the mail-order firm fed him more and more work.

But while Rosenwald was prospering,



"Well, I finally got the kids tucked in for the night."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Sears, Roebuck was rapidly going broke. In 1895, despite an \$800,000 sales volume, inventory losses and high promotion costs left the partners \$75,000 in the red. Roebuck then had ulcers from Sears' way of doing things. From personal funds Sears bought his one-third interest for \$20,000.

(Within five years Roebuck's share would have been worth \$3 million; and today it would be at least one-third of one billion. But Roebuck, who lived until 1948, didn't worry about that. Sears died in 1914, five years after retirement; he left \$25 million. When Rosenwald died in 1932 he was worth \$100 million.)

Rosenwald and Wood built the business. Rosenwald put \$250,000 into it. While Sears stuck to selling, Rosenwald gradually straightened out order-filling and inventory. For one thing, he created the company's system of permanent suppliers. Some 10,000 of these manufacturers, mainly small and middle-sized, now serve Sears, Roebuck.

Sears orders months in advance, and pays cash. This enables suppliers to schedule efficiently. Sears stands ready to give them financial and technical aid,

to improve everything from accounting systems to production lines, and to re-design products. Always, the object is to bring down the price while improving the quality. Sears itself owns only 22 factories and has investments in 46 others.

The company's economists must estimate price trends six months ahead. Other economists, as well as Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, look with special interest on Sears' latest prices. As a whole the 1955 prices are at lowest level since 1950. From Sears' catalog sociologists may trace the changes in America's living habits. Walt Disney is said to have the most complete collection of Sears' catalogs. He lends them to movie, stage, and television producers, for help in providing authentic costumes and props for "period" shows.

A quick reading of a 1905 Sears catalog may suggest how much we Americans—and Sears—have changed.

The book called itself "The Farmer's friend" and "The Great Price-Maker." Then, as now, Sears guaranteed on every purchase, "Money back if not satisfied." To prove ability to meet such obligations, Sears announced that its corporate capital and surplus, "fully paid," was "over \$5 million."

Long before *Oklahoma!* was written, Sears listed surney, with fringe, at \$48.50. The family fiddler could choose between a "Paganini Guarnerius" violin, \$5.45; a "Stradivarius," \$6.10; and an "Amati," \$7.25. (Today Sears' violins, all called Silvertone, range from \$19.85 to \$79.95.) The family could enjoy a 54-cent croquet set; a Columbia Graphophone, with long horn and 48 records, all for \$14.95; or get "fun, laughter and amusement with the stereoscope" (complete with 100 pictures, all different), for 95 cents.

For mother there was a \$10.85 sewing machine, and an Acme Triumph steel six-hole kitchen range for \$26.50. In rare free moments she might relax in a \$1.75 rocker. A "solid oak bedroom suite" set the family back \$12.95. The home could be brightened with colored burlap, at 14 to 33 cents a yard.

Father stalked small game with a "shotgun and outfit complete" for \$3.98, and he and the boys slept out in a striped palmetto lawn tent which sold for \$4.21. For the boys there was an \$11.75 bicycle and baseball bats for 10 to 65 cents.

When crops were good father toggled himself out by mail from Sears' custom-tailoring department. A suit, with vest, cost \$5.50; an overcoat, \$5; box blucher shoes, \$1.86; governor-style hat, \$1.95. (Young blades went for the \$1.45 derby.) The latest color in long winter underwear (75 cents) was camel's hair.

Chain store competition after World War I caused Sears to drop groceries.

(Among all retail organizations today, only The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, with \$4 billion, has larger volume than Sears.) A half-century has reduced the Horse Department from 76 pages to one. Most of this equipment is for dude ranchers and "young buckaroos." But the catalog still lists harness, halters, and saddles.

Sears' efforts to sell motor cars have not gone far. From 1908 to 1912 an *Automobile Catalog* offered the Sears Motor Buggy, "made in our own factory." Models were priced from \$325 to \$475, and would "do everything that a \$5,000 car will do, except travel faster than 25 m.p.h." This car would take you coast to coast, "through sand or mud, snow or slush."

Time payments (which now represent 40 per cent of Sears' \$3-billion volume) still were unknown. Nothing was said about obsolescence, or yearly models. The car was "guaranteed . . . against defects in materials and workmanship." It should "last a lifetime and go one to 150 miles a day."

The real luxury job (\$475 without dust cover) was a two-seater with 14-hp., 2-cylinder motor, pneumatic tires, and genuine leather upholstery. It was steered by a side lever.

The catalog still offers such items as scooters and motorcycles. And in 60 pages Sears continues to be the "car owners' variety store." From Sears' 11 catalog depots you may buy anything from piston rings, fan belts, and a 98-cent exhaust pipe to carburetors, automatic transmissions, and rebuilt engines.

Henry Ford I is said to have learned about assembly-line methods from the pneumatic tubes, conveyor belts, and spiral gravity chutes in Sears' main Chicago mail-order plant.

Each catalog itself is a major "creation." Production and distribution of all Sears catalogs for a year costs \$20 million. In addition to the big spring and fall general editions, there are (among others) supplements to these, two annual sale catalogs, and a Christmas gift catalog. Each of the last five runs 400 pages.

Fifty million of these seven general catalogs are distributed. Some 700 specialists prepare them. In Chicago and New York, Sears operates an advertising and sales group of 450. Others work at art, layout, compiling, editing, typography, purchasing, auditing, production, etc.—even though actual art, photography, engraving, printing, and binding are bought outside. Different sections of the same catalog are printed in offset, gravure, and letterpress, in one, two, or four colors.

Items in the general catalog range in weight from a one-ounce sewing bobbin to a 2,200-pound brooder house, and in price from a five-cent roller skate

key to a \$1,400 diamond ring. (Sears maintains a diamond-buying staff in Amsterdam.) Excluding such "luxuries," you may still put out \$3,000 for a few items—say, a freezer for \$419.50; camp trailer, \$535; turning lathe, \$265; metal shaper, \$440; garden tractor, \$495; air-conditioning unit, \$364; and boat (minus motor), \$385.

But while Sears has long sought to "grade up," with higher quality and wider selection, to reach more middle- and higher-income families, the average order is still \$12. Each 100 pounds of mail averages 3,500 orders.

Varying needs and desires among the 11 mail-order-house regions may involve 10,000 different pages in a single 1,400-page general catalog. Sears people know that Southerners prefer brighter colors. In furniture, the East wants colonial; the Midwest, period designs; the Far West, modern, and the South, the more ornate.

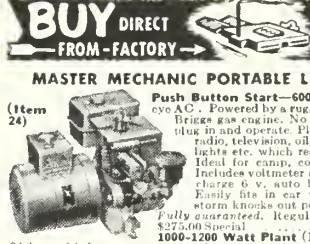
Sears can't afford to make a mistake. Catalog editors adhere not only to governmental and Better Business Bureau rules but to Sears' own *Advertising Guide*. In addition to making clear that "pants" are for work and "trousers" for dress, Sears goes to some trouble to explain such terms as "washability," "fabric shrinkage," and "sun-resistance." A glossary in the catalog describes features of various manmade fabrics, from Acrilac to Vicara.

Sears calls the catalog "a display case on paper" and adds, "We show people the goods; tell them what they're made of, what they will do, and what they cost. We *don't* tell them that such and such will make them the life of the party." From long experience Sears has learned that facts and restraint beat glamour. One headline for dress fabrics which said, "Swathes you in beauty . . . falls in fluttering folds . . ." was found 17 percent less effective than "Can be washed . . . especially easy to iron . . . resistant to shine, fraying and sagging . . ."

Sears' own respect for the value of the catalog may be suggested by the fact that when other companies briefly were permitted to advertise in it the rate was \$23,000 a page.

Despite the rapid retail-store expansion, Sears people see a big future for the catalog business. The general catalog offers more than twice as many items as do the largest Sears stores. Although catalog prices are lower than the stores', the catalog may show a wider price range.

Today "mail-order" is only one of several ways to buy by catalog. In 600 small towns Sears runs catalog sales offices where customers may see samples of merchandise before ordering or to which they may phone orders. Teletyped to the nearest regional plant, these



BUY DIRECT FROM FACTORY → SAVE MIDDLEMAN PROFITS

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(Item 24) **Push Button Start—600-700 watts 115 v. 60 cvo AC.** Powered by a rugged 2 h.p. easy-starting Briggs gas engine. No wiring necessary, just plug in and operate. Plenty of current for any radio, television, oil burner, freezer, pump, lights etc. which require up to 700 watts. Ideal for camp, cottage, trailer or boat! Includes voltmeter and built-in winding to charge 6 v. auto batteries. Wt. 75 lbs. Easily fits in car trunk. Be prepared it storm knocks out power lines.

\$143.50

24 but with larger generator and engine—50% greater output. Factory price: **\$275.00 Special \$199.50**

1000-1200 Watt Plant (Item 45) same as Item 24 but with larger generator and engine—50% greater output. Factory price: **\$475.00 Special \$349.50**

Send 10c for Big 1956 Catalog. Free with order. Prices f.o.b. factory. 10-day Money Back Guarantee. Send check or M.O. Master Mechanic Mfg. Co., Dept. 57-L, Burlington, Wis.

LEARN PLASTICS



Complete LOW COST Shop Method HOME TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

Get in on Big Money opportunities in Plastic molding, casting, forming, carving, etc. Earn as you learn with Interstate's professionally prepared course. All plastic materials furnished.

WRITE FOR FREE BOOKLET INTERSTATE TRAINING SERVICE

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WHOLESALE!

Start a Buying Service at Home. SPARE TIME. GET BIG NAME MERCHANDISE FOR—SELF AND CLIENTS UP TO 40% LESS THAN REG. PRICE. SALES EASY. AS YOU CAN GET SIZABLE DISCOUNTS, STILL MAKE FAT COMMISSIONS. Rose Card Brings FREE COPY. The AMERICAN BUYERS SERVICE.

American Buyers Service

Hertel Station, Dept. AL, Buffalo 16, N. Y.

✱

Throughout the year the pages of your American Legion Magazine carry many advertising messages from America's finest manufacturers . . .

The productivity of their plant investments form the firm basis of our national economy and the consistent high quality of their products makes possible our high standard of comfortable living.

In addition, the revenue collected from these advertisers also returns a tidy net profit to National Headquarters each year, which helps us finance many vital Legion activities.

Your purchase of these American Legion Magazine advertised brands results in full value received, cuts down on buying mistakes, and assures us of their continued advertising appropriations.

Always buy Legion advertised brands

**THE
AMERICAN LEGION
MAGAZINE**

orders are filled and, usually within one day, are delivered by Sears' own trucks to the office for the customer to pick up. Some catalog offices employ outside salesmen to make free estimates on such home improvements as heating, plumbing, and carpeting.

Meanwhile, in each of the 700 domestic retail stores there's a catalog sales desk. And in 50 metropolitan areas Sears maintains a "telethrif" phone shopping service. All of these save the customers a lot of order-making time and trouble.

Any order of \$20 or more may be paid for in installments. Home appliance items costing less than \$200 will be delivered for \$5 down.

Although most catalog items are made in America, such things as French and English bicycles, an Austrian motorcycle, an Italian motor scooter, German cuckoo clocks, Mexican huachucas, Japanese porcelains and camera lenses are listed.

Usually Sears waits until a new product has been proved. But the catalogs have carried television sets for years. Among other newer lines offered are automatic washer-driers, power lawn mowers, a garden tractor.

Sears also pioneers. Some 1955 offerings were an electric range with glass inner door (to let the cook see how the roast is coming), a home freezer with a food elevator, a pocket or hand-bag alarm that sets off a siren, a gas-operated shotgun to fire five shots in one second, a portable circular play yard, and a water pump that operates submerged for its entire life.

A green-sheet index at the back of the general catalog helps you find 107,000 "constant" items. Information on specialized or out-of-season products may be had for the writing.

The index reaches from "A" vitamins and abdominal pads to zircon rings. You'll find 14 types of balls, from base to volley; 17 of beds; 26 of belts; 34 of brushes; 18 of bulbs (not counting the garden variety); 25 of rings, from baby to auto wheels. Uniforms for ball teams and beauticians; and, priced from \$19.95 to \$99.95, several uranium finders.

In a half-century prices of Sears' made-to-measure suits for men have risen to \$35-\$55, but ready-made suits in the catalog start at \$19.95. Women's clothing takes a lot more space than men's. But half of the whole book is devoted to home and "hard" goods. Save for a few groups of items, such as watches and toiletries, the brands offered (Allstate, Coldspot, J. C. Higgins, etc.) are nearly all Sears' own.

Under "Books" are 82 types—from beekeeping, carpentry, decorating, and etiquette to health, marriage, maternity, television, welding, and fiction. The company's early experiments with best-sellers-by-mail were not too successful. Once Sears' bought a million copies of General Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur*, and was stuck with 700,000 of them, which it gave away as premiums.

Today Sears owns three book clubs. Selections for the People's Book Club are made by a "jury" of 400 women and 100 men who reside mostly in smaller towns across the country. The others are Sears' Readers' Club and a Young People's Book Club.

Next to the American Bible Society, Sears is the largest distributor of the 10 million Bibles sold annually in the U.S.A. The catalog offers King James versions from \$1.98 to \$10. A separate section covers Catholic Bibles, prayer books, etc.

Whatever you want for work or play Sears may supply.

For business the general catalog offers such things as calculators and typewriters, office furniture and filing equipment. (Executives may learn more about them from a *Business Equipment & Supply Catalog*.)

Long before today's do-it-yourself trend the catalog was helping handy men. On air conditioners Sears says, "Save installation expense. Do it yourself in just 15 minutes." You are urged to save "\$400 by installing plumbing," to put in your own heating system, and "roll your own blacktop drive."

Farmers, of course, *have* to be handy. And dirt farmers are still very much on Sears' mind. In addition to rating 40 pages in the general catalog (from day-old chicks at 15½ cents each to milkers and centrifugal pumps) interested readers are urged to send in an attached post card for a free *Farm Equipment Catalog*.

Despite the fact that the number of commercial farms and full-time farmers is declining, the exodus to the suburbs and the shorter work week maintain demand for "handy" equipment. Sears no longer figures that its catalog business should average two per cent of the nation's farm income. Instead, the company shoots for its share of the earnings of all of us.

The catalog is a vigorous supplement, especially for customers of Sears' smallest, or "C" stores. In rapidly growing areas of the country, the catalog finds and develops customers before the stores can reach them. In newer and older, smaller and larger communities today, millions of people are still getting a lot of help from the *Sears, Roebuck Catalog*. THE END

OUTLOOK FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

(Continued from page 13)

favorable financial balance sheet to the public in an election year. We must not permit personal ambition to establish a financial record to endanger the fulfillment of the continuing obligation of the American people to our sick and disabled veterans.

This growing preoccupation with economy threatens not just those who sacrificed so much for their country, but millions more who are likely to be called on in the future. I am deeply concerned over national security and the efforts already being made to cut down military expenditures and to rely upon the questionable sincerity of a handful of Russian leaders who are for the time smiling instead of scowling and denouncing us.

The moves being made to scuttle our national defense will be applauded and expedited where possible by three dis-

tinued groups. First there are those who want economy above everything. Their motives may not be noble but they are understandable. As their bedfellows these people have every communist and pro-communist in the country. For years these reds and pinks have been trying to persuade America to disarm, but the going was hard as long as their Russian masters kept antagonizing us by their brutal behavior to everyone, including Americans.

Now, with the bosses of the Kremlin going in for backslapping and conducted tours, the job is a lot easier for the red propagandists and apologists in this country. Obviously, one should not buy guns and planes to deal with jovial berry-pickers and drinking companions.

The third and largest group, however, consists of the general public. Unfortunately, many Americans seem to

have gone completely overboard in their eagerness to believe that the Soviets have suddenly repented of past errors and are now eager for salvation. Because of this wishful thinking, some Americans are inclined to fall for the adroit arguments of the economy bloc, anxious to curtail defense spending, and the wily reds who want to stop all such spending.

So great is this danger that an alarm was recently sounded from a strange source. England has consistently been friendlier to the Soviet Union than this country has been, and, in fact, has often accused the United States of being too anti-Soviet. Yet not long ago a high British official expressed serious concern that the people of the United States were becoming dangerously pro-Soviet as a result of the "summit" meeting at Geneva. He warned that this

mercurial behavior on our part was not reassuring to our allies.

The President himself has attempted to stop this nonsense by making public statements calling on the Soviet leaders to show concrete evidence of a change of heart. For the sober fact is that we have seen little more than smiling Russian faces and inquisitive Russian scientists, and have heard nothing more than laughter, not to mention speeches as vague as they were congenial.

Bulganin is reported to have told his people not long ago that the meetings at the summit had accomplished their purpose for the so-called peace-loving democracies. In other words, for the U.S.S.R. and its satellites. We should take the Soviet Premier at his word and do nothing that will give the communists the advantage they seek either abroad or within our borders.

The danger in this coming year is likely to be greater at home than it will be overseas. Our military leaders are certainly not going to swallow the propaganda that the Russians have now renounced war, and they will not advocate that American troops be sent home and that overseas bases be relinquished. It might be instructive to recall that the Soviet Union attained her present military dominance because the American people defaulted on the home front following World War II. Then too, we were so anxious for peace that we forced the premature breakup of our Armed Forces—and the Soviet moved into the vacuum. During the year ahead we will be under tremendous pressure to repeat the same error we made a short decade ago.

Still another danger we face is from the traitors within our borders. A vast store of irrefutable evidence has been

compiled in recent years to show Americans how the communist conspiracy operates. We have had a whole series of dramatic demonstrations proving how communists and communist stooges wormed their way into strategic spots in government, education, labor, entertainment, publishing, broadcasting, and so on. And we have seen the evidence as to how they operated in those fields.

We now see how powerful organizations, with millions at their disposal, are hard at work trying to convince Americans that communism is not a real and present danger, and that the only thing Americans should fear is any attempt to expose and punish people who were part and parcel of the communist conspiracy in this country.

I solemnly warn all loyal Americans to be on guard against such propaganda and those who promote it. They are clever and they have millions of dollars, not rubles, at their disposal for their work. This year their objective has been made easier for them by the smiling Russian leaders. Some Americans will believe the current line that there is no point in "persecuting" people in this country just because they like our "very good friends," the peaceful folk who live behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain.

Obviously, we must be on guard against the subtle propaganda which will attempt to lull us into a false feeling of security. But we cannot afford to be merely defensive. We must take positive steps to maintain and build the strength of the United States, working through The American Legion to do so.

As individuals, we are limited in what we can do. However, working as a team through our organization we can ac-

Almost Frantic from DRY SKIN ITCH?

First applications of Zemo—a doctor's soothing antiseptic—relieve itch of surface skin and scalp irritations. Zemo stops scratching and so aids healing. **zemo**

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PAYS BIG! SEND FOR FREE, BIG, ILLUSTRATED CATALOG NOW! Graduates report making substantial incomes. Start and run your own business quickly. Men, women of all ages, learn easily. Course covers Sales, Property Management, Appraising, Loans, Mortgages, and related subjects. **STUDY AT HOME** or in classrooms in leading cities. Diploma awarded. Write TODAY for free book! No obligation. Approved for World War II and Korean Veterans. **WEAVER SCHOOL OF REAL ESTATE** (Est. 1936) 2020A Grand Avenue Kansas City, Mo.



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ASTHMA—For over 50 years sufferers have found quick, temporary relief by smoking PAGE'S INHALERS. Pleasant, inexpensive. At drug stores. Send for free samples. Consolidated Chemical Co. 835 Cherry, Grand Rapids 6, Mich.

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IN Steel or Wood
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WRITE FOR CATALOGUE
AND LOW DIRECT PRICES
J. P. REDINGTON & CO.
DEPT. 197 SCRANTON 2, PA.

40 ACRE GOVERNMENT OIL LEASES—\$100

You do no drilling, pay no taxes, may realize a king-size profit without ever leaving home. Write for free map and literature.

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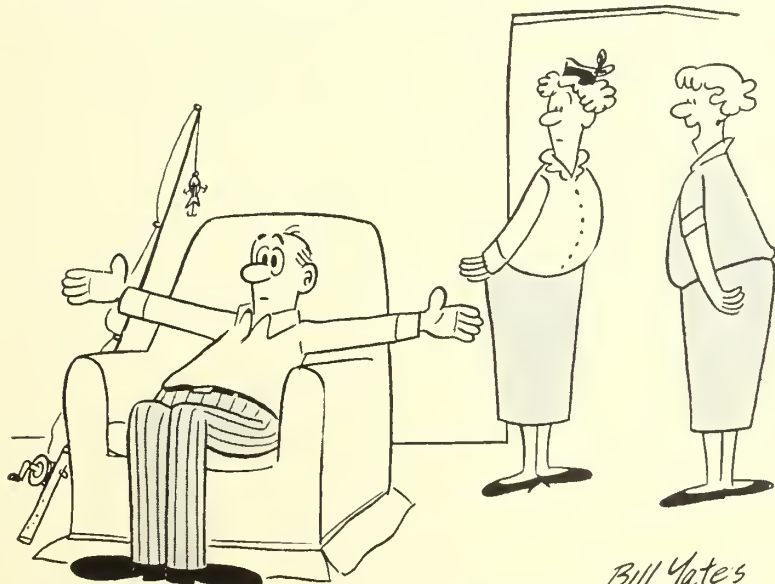
NOW there is a new modern Non-Surgical treatment that permanently corrects rupture. These Non-Surgical treatments are so certain, that a Lifetime Certificate of Assurance is given. Write today for our New FREE Book that gives facts that may save you painful and expensive surgery, and tells how non-surgically you may again work, live, play and love and enjoy life in the manner you desire. There is no obligation. Excelsior Hernia Clinic Dept. 7205 Excelsior Springs, Mo.

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"He's been like that since yesterday. I suppose this time one really did get away."

comply a great deal. Our enemies certainly know that, and it is their fear of the strength of The American Legion as an organized force which causes them to attack us with such vicious fury. It is this fear which prompts their smears and their ridicule. This year, by working and building together, let us give these enemies of America something to worry about.

This is going to mean a more active participation in Legion affairs by every member. This year it is not enough to be a Legionnaire by remote control. Your presence is going to be needed at Post meetings, every meeting. And if your Post is lackadaisical, your active help is going to be needed to put some life in it.

Space does not permit a listing of specific things your Post should attempt to do during 1956. Every Legionnaire knows the broad objectives of our organization, and I hope I have made it clear why we must close ranks and form a united front at this time to meet the inevitable onslaught from (1) those who are trying to get this country to renege on its responsibilities to needy, sick and wounded veterans, and (2) those who are trying to weaken and destroy this country by guile and treachery.

However, just as the individual Legionnaire can do little without the support of his fellow veterans, so the individual Post must have the support of the community. And here too, we have a job cut out for us in 1956.

The American Legion as an organization is recognized as a force for good precisely to the extent that the individual Post has earned the right, through service, to the respect of the community. In most communities we can take the utmost pride in our Posts. They are true community centers, contributing much to the life of the community, and getting in return the respect and co-

operation of the people of the community. In some quarters, unfortunately, that is not so. This would be bad enough if such Posts were isolated units, but through them the entire organization suffers. And in communities where there are such Posts, the fine aims and



"How soon can something happen to him?"

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

objectives of The American Legion not only get no support from non-Legionnaires in the community, but are indeed likely to suffer.

To Legionnaires who happen to belong to Posts which have gone to seed, I make an appeal for improvement. Organize with others who want a better Post, and make your Post one worthy of the respect of your entire community. To repeat, the need is urgent to get active Posts and thereby to enlist the widest popular community support for the constructive program of continued progress which must be ours this year.

While 1956 will be a year of danger, it also presents us with a wonderful opportunity. Let us not forget that in the fall of 1956 there will be a national election. Let us be as aware of that simple fact as our opponents are.

This does not mean that The American Legion should engage in partisan politics, but it is our duty as Americans to work for candidates who will give us the kind of America for which we fought, and for which so many of our comrades suffered and died. Conversely, as individuals we must oppose in every way possible any candidates who have indicated any reservation whatsoever as to our country, our Constitution, our traditions, and our ideals. At one crisis during the American Revolution, General Washington gave the order: "Let none but Americans stand guard tonight." During this year of decision, let us also make certain that we do not place our trust in any person whose devotion to this country is adulterated with any yearnings for a communist government, its collectivist counterpart, or a one-world amalgam in which the United States of America would be submerged and ruled by a global politburo.

It may seem as though the individual can do little to protect himself against the steady encroachment of Soviet imperialism or the all-powerful state envisioned by the one-worlders. By himself he is virtually as helpless as prehistoric man was against a dinosaur. However, when allied with others in The American Legion, he can do much. And, if he has helped to make his Post a constructive force to build and maintain the strength of America through a healthy community, he has the strength of the entire community behind him. This power, multiplied across the country, can be irresistible, and it is up to us to bring it into being and exert it as a power for good in this coming year of decision, 1956.

THE END

PRESENTING THE NATIONAL COMMANDER . . .

(Continued from page 13)

attending Hillsdale College, before going to Washington and Lee, Virginia Dare Beagle. "Ginny" was now Mrs. Add Wagner, and had been since 1940. But in addition there was a five-year-old son, Johnny.

Add rejoined his father and sister in their law firm, virtually a Battle Creek institution, and again started to forge ahead. In a few months he was appointed Assistant City Attorney, and his practice was soon taking him not only to the City Hall and the Courthouse, but was taking him to the State Capitol at Lansing as well.

However, he gave as much of his time and energy to The American Legion. One of his first moves on re-

turning to Battle Creek was to join General George A. Custer Post 54 there, "one of the finest in the entire Department," Add points out. Starting as Service Officer he became Adjutant, then Post Commander. Next he became Judge Advocate of the 3rd District, and in 1950 he was elected Department Commander. Two years later he was National Vice Commander, in 1954 he was named Chairman of the National Americanism Commission, and in 1955 he served as Vice Chairman of that Commission.

But, somehow, Add Wagner found time to take on even more activities. He worked with the Community Chest, served as a director of a cemetery and

a country club, was cochairman of the Community Hospital \$800,000 fund-raising campaign, was active in the Exchange Club, the Masons, the Chamber of Commerce, the Calhoun County Bar Association, and the Michigan State Bar Association. He is active, too, in church work, as a member and usher of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Men's Club of the church.

The American Legion, of course, is the main feature, and is likely to remain so long after Add Wagner has completed his term as National Commander of the world's largest veterans' organization.

THE END

HOW TO FIND OUT

(Continued from page 27)

Incidentally, if the gadget is important enough to offer to companies such as General Electric, Westinghouse, or General Motors, first write them and ask for their material on how they look upon patents.

If your civic or fraternal organization wants to show 16-mm. films, there's a wealth of them to select from, and again, your best bet is to begin by inquiring at your public library. Many of them have established film centers, and if they do not have actual films on hand, they will help you consult directories and publications to guide you in obtaining titles suited to your needs.

The National Headquarters of The American Legion at Indianapolis maintains a film library of several hundred titles from which any of the more than 17,000 Posts of The American Legion and almost 14,000 Units of the Auxiliary may borrow films. The only cost to the Posts or Units is a one dollar service charge to cover part of the cost of transportation. Films circulated by the Motion Picture Section deal with the major programs of The American Legion, including National Defense, Child Welfare, Americanism, Rehabilitation, etc. Although some of the films have been produced by The American Legion to depict the operation of these basic programs, most of the films are made available to The American Legion by both non-profit and commercial organizations. Films from outside sources are selected after careful screening if they have a direct connection with one or more of The American Legion's basic programs.

Suppose now, your problem concerns spending of cold cash, like maybe buying a sewing machine for your wife. You've seen one advertised over TV for \$23.50, and you wonder if it performs the way the announcer claims. How can you find out? Ask the nearest Better Business Bureau.

While the Better Business Bureau is not a credit house, it conducts investigations when complaints are received from the public, and it provides information regarding companies in your area—the background of their officers and how they deal with customers. Maybe there's a broker who wants to handle your investments for you. The BBB may have a file on the man, and inform you if he was ever arrested on stock fraud charges. These reports, which may save you hundreds of dollars, are free to the public.

If there is no Better Business Bureau in your locality, your local Chamber of Commerce may be able to give you this sort of information.

When it comes to playtime informa-

tion, the nearest travel bureau is geared to book your trip and supply data on resorts without charge, unless you have some rather unique yen, which was the case with Larry Conley, a World War I veteran living in Sag Harbor, N. Y.

Retired from active business, Larry didn't care how far he traveled to fish for black marlin. He wrote to "The Flying Fisherman Club," Eastern Air Lines, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, and received full details as to the best spot to visit, how to get there, the equipment needed, and cost of accommodations. This despite the fact that Eastern does not serve that particular fishing paradise. Eastern also maintains "The Flying Hunter Club" for outdoor guys who are interested in pursuing deer, wild boar, bear, elk, or migratory birds.

No trouble or expense is spared in the commercial world to build consumer goodwill, and among the costly undertakings are the elaborate touring services maintained by Texaco, Esso, and almost all large gasoline companies.

You pick up a post card at a filling station, write your name, address, where and when you are going, and the attendant mails it to the nearest main office, which may be in New York, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Washington, or New Orleans. There it is quickly processed, the information promptly dispatched, by airmail if you are starting off soon.

The Texas Company not only sends you Texaco roadmaps carefully marked in transparent ink for your motor trips, but if you are cruising by boat, will supply maps of waterways, and even inform you about mail ports which hold mail for navigators of pleasure craft. All these maps are gratis, which not only saves money but time and headaches as well. This up-to-date information from all over the country which pours into the central offices of the gas companies, is something it would be almost impossible for you to assemble as a private individual.

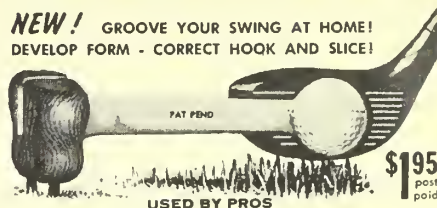
No less eager to please the public than industrial concerns are politicians who day and night are besieged with pleas ranging from "Can you get my son appointed to West Point?" to "Can you get me six tickets to the Arthur Godfrey show?" They try.

Of a more drastic nature was the need of tenants in some old houses who recently received notice that they would have to move because the buildings were to be torn down so that a large apartment building could be erected on the property.

The residents were all in a quandary at the sudden edict to find new homes

Golfers WHAM-O for practice

NEW! GROOVE YOUR SWING AT HOME!
DEVELOP FORM - CORRECT HOOK AND SLICE!



No ball to chase! Simply push into ground and hit. Returns to position after club swing. Hooking, slicing, or topping is indicated by action of Wham-O. Practice just 5 minutes a day with our instructions and play 100% better on Sunday! Folds to 8" for golf bag. Use to warm up at starting tee. Tough pliable plastic, ash hardwood stock, 5" steel spikes. Withstands violent abuse. Only \$1.95 complete. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Ideal for gift. Send to: **WAMO MFG CO., Box 62C, San Gabriel, Calif.**

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ASTHMA NEWS

Thousands of sufferers have found wonderful freedom from fear of wheezing, choking, coughing, difficult breathing, sleep and energy destroying attacks of Bronchial Asthma and Bronchitis with **MENDACO**, which usually quickly helps loosen and remove thick, strangling mucus. Thus allays coughing and promotes freer breathing and sounder sleep. Get **MENDACO** under money back guarantee at druggists.

STOP RADIO & TV NOISES INSTANTLY

NEW PATENTED ELECTRONIC INVENTION "CLEAR TONE" filter eliminates noisy interferences caused by all motor appliances, autos, oil burners, etc. Simply plug radio or TV cord into filter and filter into wall socket. Enjoy "CLEAR TONE" reception. Try 5 days—**MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**. SEND 10c for postage handling.

Household Prod., Dept. 16, Scarsdale, N. Y.

Happy Is The Day When Backache Goes Away....

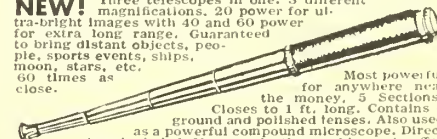
Nagging backache, headache, or muscular aches and pains may come on with over-exertion, emotional upsets or day to day stress and strain. And folks who eat and drink unwisely sometimes suffer mild bladder irritation...with that restless, uncomfortable feeling.

If you are miserable and worn out because of these discomforts, Doan's Pills often help by their pain relieving action, by their soothing effect to ease bladder irritation, and by their mild diuretic action through the kidneys—tending to increase the output of the 15 miles of kidney tubes.

So if nagging backache makes you feel dragged-out, miserable...with restless, sleepless nights...don't wait...try Doan's Pills...get the same happy relief millions have enjoyed for over 60 years. Get Doan's Pills today!

60 POWER TELESCOPE \$3.98
VARIABLE EYEPIECE 20X—40X—60X—BRASS BOUND

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—quite a trick to do in a crowded city these days. Then someone suggested that they seek aid from the local political club in dealing with the landlord. Sure enough, an energetic lawyer was provided free of charge. He secured a postponement of eviction.

In addition to the services available from political organizations, there are so many services available from health, welfare, recreation, and defense agencies, that it is impossible to list them all. However, copies of a *Directory of National Sources*, with names and addresses of 125 such groups, may be had for 10¢ from Magazine Service, Community Chests and Councils of America, 345 East 46th Street, New York City 17.

Since most of them cooperate with each other, the American National Red Cross, for instance, might turn over a case not in its line to the National Legal Aid Association whose main office is at 328 Main Street East, Rochester 4, N. Y. There are 154 Legal Aid branches throughout the United States, and last year 375,000 cases were handled for a registration fee of 50¢ or \$1.00, or absolutely free if the client was unable to pay.

One case involved a veteran, Joe

Marston, of Philadelphia, and his Japanese war bride. Before going into the Army Joe had paid several installments on a used car. When he went to war without completing payments, the car was re-possessed. By the time Joe finally returned to the States he had forgotten about the old car, and the company had gone out of business. Later another outfit bought up all the original papers.

One night three men appeared at the Marston home. Joe was out, and the strangers demanded \$300 from his wife. She didn't have the money, so they asked if the Marstons owned a car. When she said yes, the schemers demanded and were given the keys. They then drove off with the secondhand automobile which wasn't worth much, but Joe was plenty burned up when he returned home and heard what had happened.

Not knowing any lawyer, he turned to the Legal Aid Association for help. It supplied a reputable attorney who promptly telephoned the two characters who decided they'd better return the car.

Another organization that frequently solves problems for the general public is the National Travelers Aid Associa-

tion, which operates 103 branches in railroad, bus, and air terminals throughout the country.

Lounges for servicemen are still maintained in Denver, San Francisco, and Washington. Recently a disconsolate-looking soldier in Washington approached the hostess and asked her, "How can I find a male quarter to sing with?" This was not a common query, but the volunteer worker found just the vocalizing group the chap was seeking, and he went happily on his way.

Most of the questions asked are, "Where can I find good hotel accommodations at reasonable rates?" or "How can I find a good restaurant?" but there are enough unusual demands for information to test the workers' résumés. One young fellow who had several hours to wait between trains before traveling home to greet his first child was very worried about his lack of experience regarding infant care.

"Suppose they want me to change the baby's diaper!" he exclaimed with a harried expression.

The hostess was puzzled for a moment, and then she brightened. "I'll arrange for you to go out and practice on my new grandchild!" THE END

HOW TO GET BETTER SERVICE FOR YOUR CAR

(Continued from page 23)

ested in persuading them that they need a new car. This is known as "bird dogging." Incidentally, transferring your service to an independent may not protect you from this practice, since almost all new-car salesmen employ local independent mechanics as "bird dogs."

Inevitably, the question comes up, "Can the independent shop give adequate service on today's car?" The answer in the majority of cases is yes. The good independent usually makes up in ingenuity and resourcefulness what he lacks in manpower and equipment. On the other hand, the independent tends to be slow because of his lack of manpower, and he often has a cluttered, untidy shop.

The dealer shop, of course, has advantages that the independent is hard put to match. The service manager and some of the mechanics too are frequently factory-trained on your make of car. They have immediate access to up-to-date factory information and a large stock of parts. In addition, they have heavy experience on your make and model.

When you have your car repaired by a dealer or by a small shop, you can run into the same sources of dissatisfaction—poor work, unnecessary work, work that simply isn't done. The cause may be incompetence or dishonesty. A basic

cause of many service complaints, however, is in the design of the car itself.

This doesn't mean that there is any truth in the widely stated belief that cars are deliberately built to be hard to repair, that "They build them that way so we'll have to buy new ones." That's nonsense; no industry could last five years if it made a policy of sabotaging its customers. Instead, what has happened is that we, as car buyers, have come to demand more and more convenience from our cars. We want power windows, automatic transmissions, power brakes, power steering, even air conditioning. Comfort costs money, and we must pay more, not only in initial cost but in maintenance, for the ever-increasing luxury of our cars.

Let's say, for instance, that you drive into a garage in your new Whatzis. You tell the mechanic that the automatic shift is off the beam—won't respond with a burst of extra power when you jab your foot down.

The mechanic starts looking for the trouble. He checks the carburetor, the linkage, the transmission valving, everything. No soap. He checks again. And again. Finally, after an hour, he discovers that a 2½-inch rod, nearly invisible behind and below a tremendous air cleaner, is slightly bent. He removes it, but because of its inaccessible loca-

tion it takes him another half hour to install and adjust a new one. All this time, by the way, he has been hanging head down into the hood, since that's the only way to get at the transmission linkage in the Whatzis. (That air cleaner that's in the way is there because you wanted a four-barrel carburetor for extra power.)

The bill is \$7, and you'd probably blow your top if you discovered that you had paid that for a six-cent rod. But that's the way it goes when you want extra power and you (or your wife) don't want to shift your own gears.

What of the shop that simply doesn't do the job, that takes your car in, lets it sit for a day or two, then returns it to you in much the same condition in which you left it? Or what of the shop which only does half a job? Here the car seems a little better, but certainly not enough better to justify the bill.

There is a procedure you can follow which will protect you to a large degree against both abuses. Before you bring your car in for service, try to decide just what it is that is wrong. I don't mean that you have to be a mechanic; simply decide what it is that bothers you about the car's condition or performance. Get a notebook and write it down in as much detail as possible. You might write, for instance, "Engine

knocks when gas pedal is released. Thump in rear when pulling away."

When you drive into the shop tell the mechanic what's wrong. When you return for your car *pay no money* until you have tested the car on the road, accompanied by a mechanic. When you get in, take out your notebook and consult it (you'd be surprised how often this proof of your alertness will start the mechanic off, unasked, into a long explanation of just why they didn't get around to finishing your car). As you drive, look and listen for the things that were bothering you. If *any* of them are still there, refuse to pay until they are corrected.

Unnecessary work is hard to fight, but, fortunately, it isn't too common. Few of us are mechanics enough to be able to judge whether the work was actually needed or not. We may, for instance, bring in our car for a tune-up and be told that the rings are shot or that new valves are needed. If you are the average owner you will probably just have to take the mechanic's word for it. The best way to protect yourself against this sort of thing, according to the New York Automobile Repairmen's Association, a group of independent shop operators, is to take your car to at least one other shop for diagnosis before you agree to expensive work if there is any doubt in your mind as to the need for it.

There has been a lot written about the "gyp" parts evil, replacement parts made by companies other than the original factory suppliers. Shops using such parts should tell you that they have been installed, and in most cases the price should be less than for factory-specified parts. Rebuilt parts, of course, are something else again. These should never be installed without your prior consent.

The real evil in the parts situation is the "elimination" method of trouble-shooting. Here the mechanic, instead of testing each suspected part, simply removes it and installs a new part. He continues to do this until the trouble disappears (while the customer pays for the "necessary" new parts).

This racket is particularly common in automotive electrical repair. I recently tested 100 electrical parts rejected as "faulty." I found that 72 of them were either perfect or merely in need of cleaning or adjusting. The parts manufacturers are fighting this abuse vigorously since it gives their products a reputation for short life and unreliability. They are fighting it with better education for mechanics. Electric Auto-Lite, for instance, has done much to improve things through its intensive school for automobile service men. During the month-long course they learn not only to service the electrical

system expertly, but to test each part carefully before replacing it.

The car factories too are trying to raise the quality of service through special courses and schools in different phases of repair. The Automobile Manufacturers' Association has a permanent program of cooperation with vocational schools throughout the country, designed to train more and better mechanics.

While you're waiting around for the new generation of perfect mechanics to

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arrive, here are a few things that you can do to protect your pocketbook:

1. Stick to shops and dealers with a solid local reputation. When you do find a good man, stay with him. You may get an occasional bargain by shopping around, but you'll lose money in the long run.
2. Stay away from come-ons and sensational offers. "Tremendous discounts" almost always mean microscopic service.
3. Before you have your car repaired, write down just how the car acts or what the damage is. Before you pay for the repairs, test-drive the car, accompanied by a mechanic. Make sure that everything you noted has been corrected.
4. Give your car regular, periodic maintenance to forestall big, expensive jobs.
5. Insist on thorough service when it is lubricated. See to it that chassis and body (locks, hinges, etc.) are lubricated and inspected at regular intervals. At the same time have the oil level in the automatic transmission checked.

Change the crankcase oil according to the manufacturer's specifications if you are fussy, although half as often will do no harm if your engine is fitted with a filter. Keep your tires inflated to the pressure recommended by your gas pump attendant, and have them rotated ("switched around") every 3,000 miles. Have the front end aligned at least twice a year or whenever the tires show signs of uneven wear. Check the crankcase oil level and the radiator water level every time you buy gasoline, and check the battery water level at least once a month.

THE END

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Ideal Age for Women

*Now thirty's a nice age for women,
Not young and not old, but just nifty—
Especially nice age for women
Who're rapidly verging on fifty.*
— HARLAN BEEM

Beef Trust

Among classic football exaggerations is the following retort made by one coach when asked about the size of the opposing team.

"Big?" he growled, "Why, that team is so big that when their boys run onto the field, they tip it up on one side."

— THOMAS P. RAMIREZ



"Here they come again!"

It's Natural

When you're green with envy, you're ripe for trouble.

— HOWIE LASSETER

Preventive Measure

The young cousin of the mountaineer blade had come over the mountain to visit him, and was standing entranced as the older youth went over his face with a straight razor.

"Don't you ever cut yourself?" he asked wonderingly.

"Naw," said his kinsman, "I been shaving nigh on to two years and I ain't cut myself either time."

— BLANCHIE McKEOWN

Enter at a Distance

With the neighborhood kids

You had best be on guard;

If you give them an inch

They take over a yard.

— WILLIAM W. PRATT

Double Duty

When his best girl jilted him he decided to visit a medium. The consulting room was dimly lit, the seer's head encased in a turban, and the mystic ball into which the swami gazed was a gleaming ebony affair. The client, puzzled, noticed that it had a pair of small holes in it and asked why.



Parting Shots

"Oh," was the nonchalant reply, "I bowl a couple of times a week."

— MARY ALKUS

Test for Friends

Who are your friends? Whom would you pick?

There is a way to tell.

*They come to see you when you're sick—
And also when you're well.*

— RICHARD ARNOUR

The Realist

On his first hunting trip with his new dog the farmer noticed that when he hit a duck, the dog walked out on the water, retrieved the bird and walked back to shore. When he hit a second duck, the dog casually repeated the routine.

Knowing his friend would not believe this story, the farmer took a neighbor along on his next hunting trip. True to form, when either hit a bird the dog would walk out on the water and retrieve it.

Finally, when they had bagged their limit and the neighbor still hadn't made any comment, the farmer said, "By the way, did you notice anything unusual about my dog?"

"I sure did," his friend replied. "The son of a gun can't swim!"

— GEORGE PRINI

Attention: Ladies

A girl who knows her onions can end up with carats.

— JACK HERBERT

That's Telling Him

*You can tell a Bad Driver—he's easy to spot
By things that he does which Good Drivers
do not.*

*For instance, he weaves, and he darts and
he swerves,*

*He crowds you on straight roads and passes
on curves;*

*A STOP never stops him, and warnings
don't warn,*

He never, no never stops blowing his horn.

*You can tell the Bad Driver—he makes your
heart fail,*

*By driving, at sixty, two feet from your tail.
His signals are something there's no use in
scamming,*

*You never can tell what the heck he's
planning.*

*You can tell the Bad Driver, 'most anyone
could,*

*But you can't tell him nuthin' that does any
good!*

— BERTON BRALEY

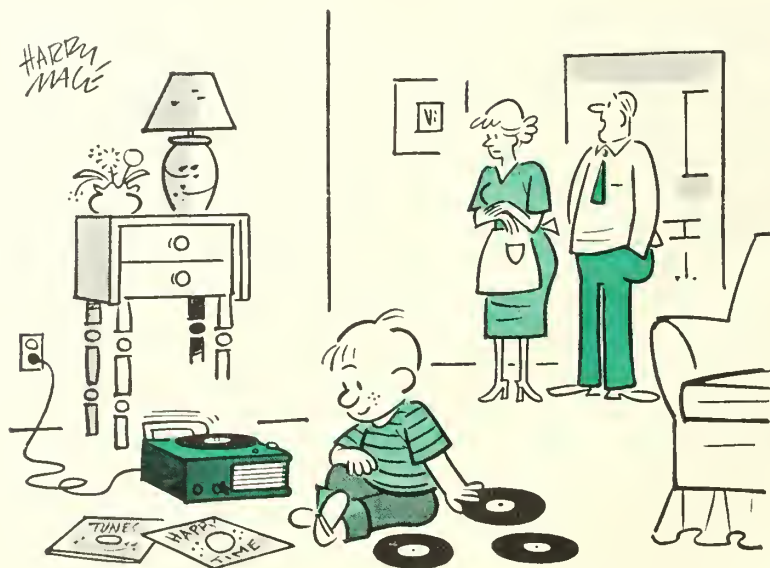
The Voice of Experience

The wealthy Lothario was telling the girl he expected to make his fifth wife how much he loved her.

Breathlessly she listened and then protested, "But I've heard some awful stories about you."

"Don't worry about that," he smiled. "They're nothing but old wives' tales."

— JOSEPH CHARLES SALAK



"... A famous musician, or maybe, with luck, even a disc jockey!"

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